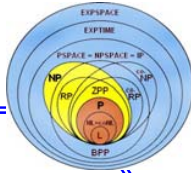


Session 8

- Ambiguity in Context-Free Grammars
- Pushdown Automata
- The Language of a Pushdown Automaton





Ambiguity in Context-Free Grammars





Ambiguous Grammars

In the grammar

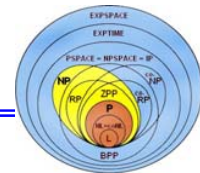
1. $E \rightarrow I$, 2. $E \rightarrow E + E$, 3. $E \rightarrow E \times E$, 4. $E \rightarrow (E)$,

5. $I \rightarrow a$, 6. $I \rightarrow b$, 7. $I \rightarrow Ia$, 8. $I \rightarrow Ib$, 9. $I \rightarrow I0$, 10. $I \rightarrow I1$.

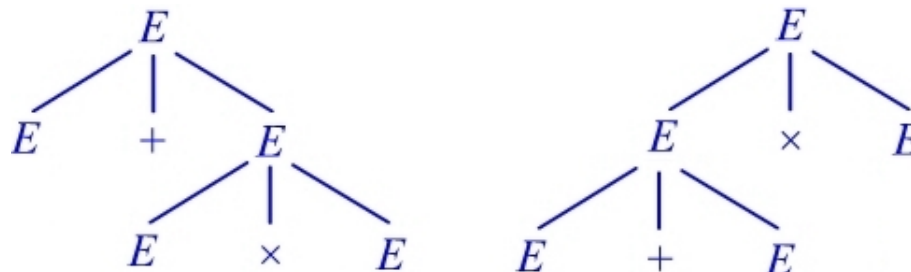
the sentential for $E + E \times E$ has two derivations:

$$E \Rightarrow E + E \Rightarrow E + E \times E \quad \text{and} \quad E \Rightarrow E \times E \Rightarrow E + E \times E$$

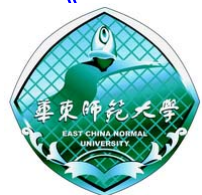




This gives us two parse trees:



This grammar is not a good one for providing unique structure. To use this expression grammar in a compiler, we would have to modify it to provide only the correct groupings.





The mere existence of several derivations is not dangerous, it is the existence of several parse trees that ruins a grammar.

In the same grammar the string $a + b$ has several derivations, e.g.

$$E \Rightarrow E + E \Rightarrow I + E \Rightarrow a + E \Rightarrow a + I \Rightarrow a + b$$

and

$$E \Rightarrow E + E \Rightarrow E + I \Rightarrow I + I \Rightarrow I + b \Rightarrow a + b$$

However, their parse trees are the same, and the structure of $a + b$ is unambiguous.

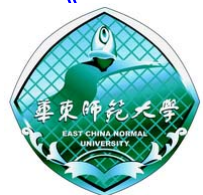


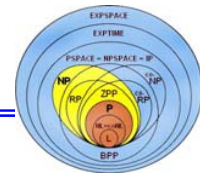


The two examples above suggested that it is not a multiplicity of derivations that cause ambiguity, but rather the existence of two or more parse trees.

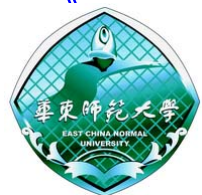
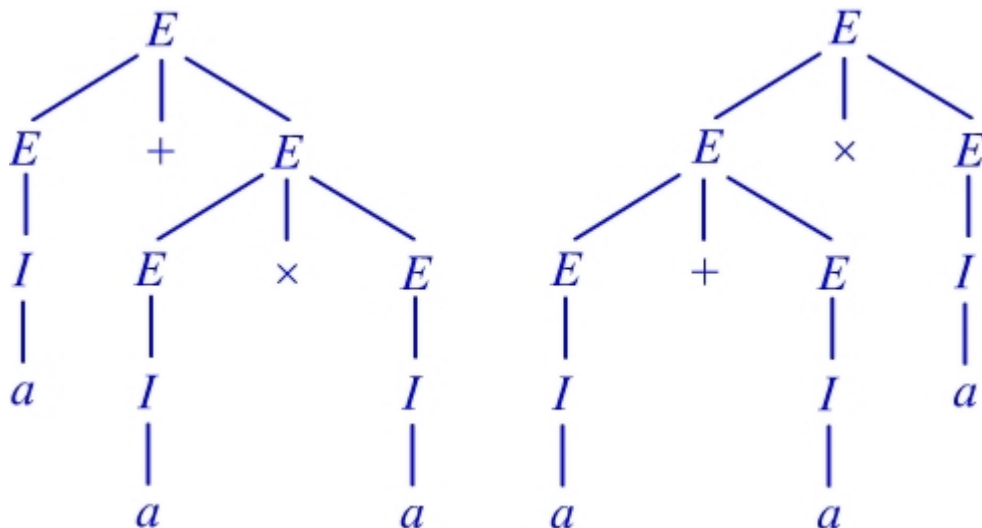
Let $G = (V, T, P, S)$ be a CFG. We say that G is **ambiguous** if there is at least one string w in T^* for which we can find two different parse trees, each with root labeled S and yield w .

If every string in $L(G)$ has at most one parse tree, G is said to be **unambiguous**.





Example In above grammar, the terminal string $a + a \times a$ has two parse trees:





Removing Ambiguity from Grammars

- Good news: Sometimes we can remove ambiguity from CFG's "by hand".
- Bad news: There is no algorithm to do it.
- More bad news: There are context-free languages that have nothing but ambiguous CFG's; for these languages, removal of ambiguity is impossible.

Fortunately, in practice, for the sorts of constructs that appear in common programming languages, there are well-known techniques for eliminating ambiguity.





As an important illustration, we are studying the grammar

$$E \rightarrow I|E + E|E \times E|(E), \quad I \rightarrow a|b|Ia|Ib|I0|I1.$$

There are two causes of ambiguity:

1. There is no precedence between \times and $+$.
2. There is no grouping of sequences of operators, e.g. is $E + E + E$ meant to be $E + (E + E)$ or $(E + E) + E$.





The solution to the problem of enforcing precedence is to introduce more variables, each representing expressions of same “binding strength”.

1. A *factor* is an expression that cannot be broken apart by an adjacent \times or $+$. Our factors are identifiers and a parenthesized expression.
2. A *term* is an expression that cannot be broken by $+$. For instance $a \times b$ can be broken by $a1 \times$ or $\times a1$, $a1 \times a \times b = (a1 \times a) \times b$. It cannot be broken by $+$, since e.g. $a1 + a \times b$ is (by precedence rules) same $a1 + (a \times b)$, and $a \times b + a1$ is same as $(a \times b) + a1$.
3. The rest are *expressions*, i.e. they can be broken apart with \times or $+$.





We'll let F stand for factors, T for terms, and E for expressions.

Consider the following grammar:

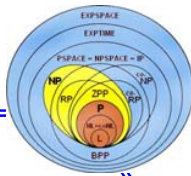
$$1. I \rightarrow a|b|Ia|Ib|I0|I1$$

$$2. F \rightarrow I|(E)$$

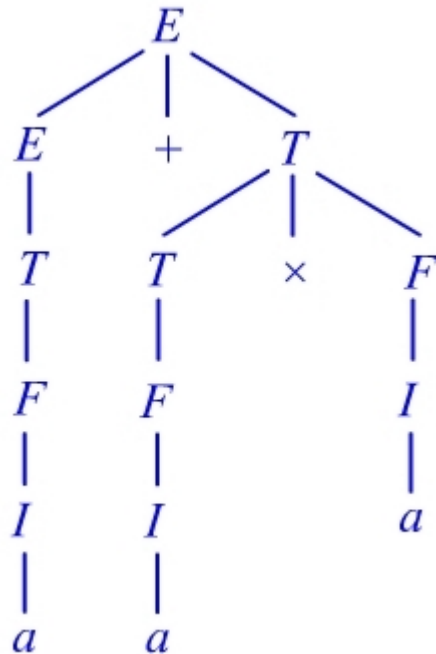
$$3. T \rightarrow F|T \times F$$

$$4. E \rightarrow T|E + T$$





Now the only parse tree for $a + a \times a$ will be



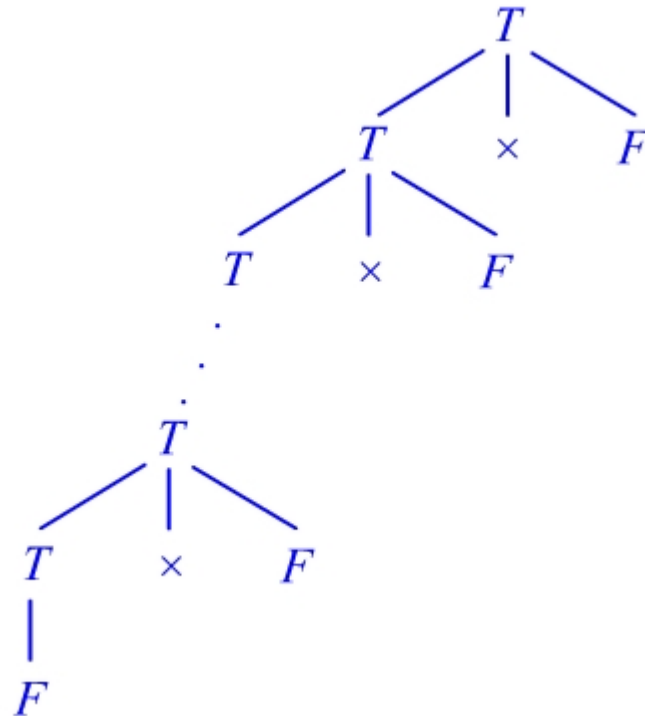


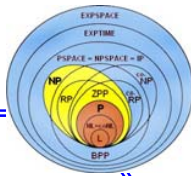
Why is the new grammar unambiguous?

Here is a intuitive explanation:

- A factor is either an identifier or (E) , for some expression E .
- The only parse tree for a sequence $f_1 \times f_2 \times \cdots \times f_{n-1} \times f_n$ of factors is the one that gives $f_1 \times f_2 \times \cdots \times f_{n-1}$ as a term and f_n as a factor, as in the parse tree on the next slide.
- An expression is a sequence $t_1 + t_2 + \cdots + t_{n-1} + t_n$ of terms t_i . It can only be parsed with $t_1 + t_2 + \cdots + t_{n-1}$ as an expression and t_n as a term.

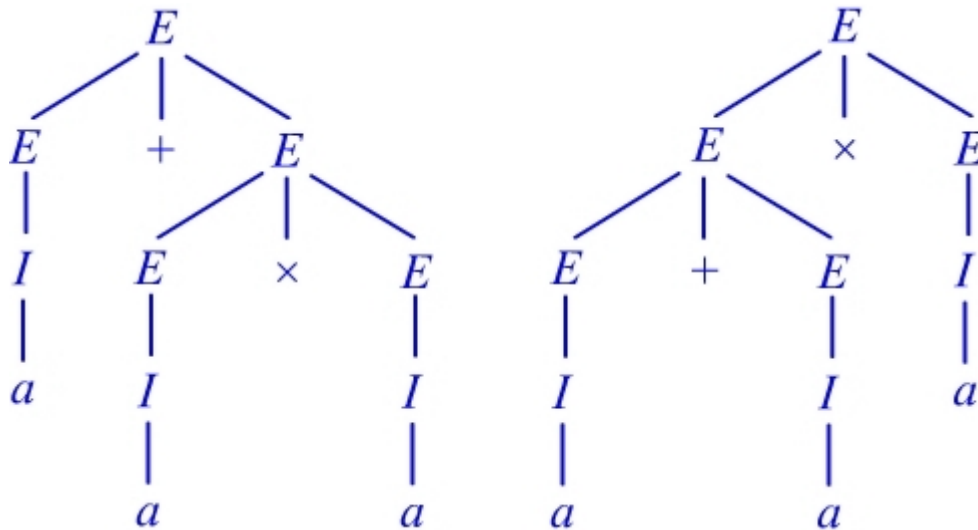






Leftmost Derivations and Ambiguity

Example The terminal string $a + a \times a$ has two parse trees:





That give rise to two derivations

$$E \Rightarrow_{lm} E+E \Rightarrow_{lm} I+E \Rightarrow_{lm} a+E \Rightarrow_{lm} a+E \times E \Rightarrow_{lm} a+I \times E \Rightarrow_{lm} a+a \times E \Rightarrow_{lm} a+a \times I \Rightarrow_{lm} a+a \times a$$

and

$$E \Rightarrow_{lm} E \times E \Rightarrow_{lm} E + E \times E \Rightarrow_{lm} I + E \times E \Rightarrow_{lm} a + E \times E \Rightarrow_{lm} a + I \times E \Rightarrow_{lm} a + a \times E \Rightarrow_{lm} a + a \times I \Rightarrow_{lm} a + a \times a$$

In general, there may be has many derivations for one parse tree. But many leftmost/rightmost derivations implies many parse trees. That is, in an unambiguous grammar, leftmost/rightmost derivations will be unique.





Theorem 5.4 *For any CFG G , a terminal string w has two distinct parse trees if and only if w has two distinct leftmost derivation from the start symbol.*

Proof –SKETCH– (If). Let's look at how we construct a parse tree from a leftmost derivation. It should now be clear that two distinct derivations gives rise to two different parse trees.

(Only if). If the two parse trees differ, they have a node with different productions, say $A \rightarrow X_1X_2 \cdots X_k$ and $A \rightarrow Y_1Y_2 \cdots Y_m$. The corresponding leftmost derivations will use derivations based on these two different productions and will thus be distinct.





Inherent Ambiguity

A CFL L is **inherent ambiguous** if *all* grammars for L are ambiguous.

Example Consider $L = \{a^n b^n c^m d^m \mid n \geq 1, m \geq 1\} \cup \{a^n b^m c^m d^n \mid n \geq 1, m \geq 1\}$.

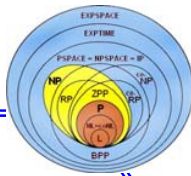
A grammar for L is

$$G = (\{A, B, C, D, S\}, \{a, b, c, d\}, P, S)$$

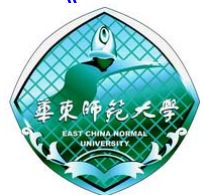
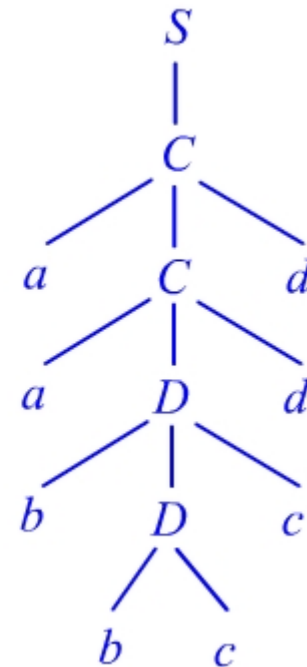
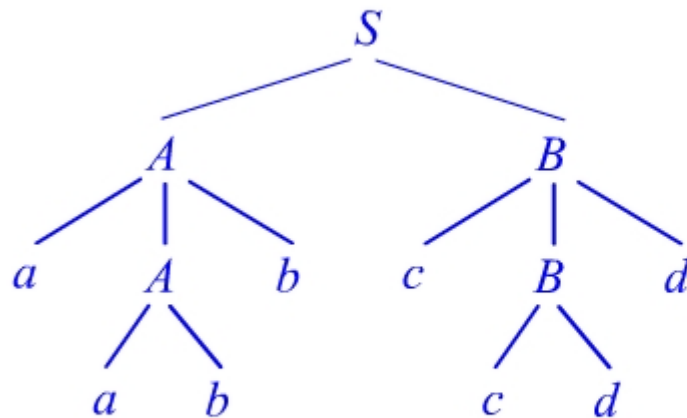
where P is as follows:

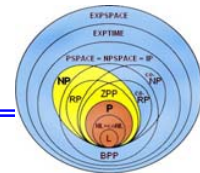
$$S \rightarrow AB|C, \quad A \rightarrow aAb|ab, \quad B \rightarrow cBd|cd, \quad C \rightarrow aCd|aDd, \quad D \rightarrow bDc|bc$$





Let's look at parsing the string *aabbccdd*





From this we see that there are two leftmost derivations:

$$S \xRightarrow{lm} AB \xRightarrow{lm} aAbB \xRightarrow{lm} aabbB \xRightarrow{lm} aabbcBd \xRightarrow{lm} aabbccdd$$

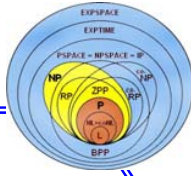
and

$$S \xRightarrow{lm} C \xRightarrow{lm} aCd \xRightarrow{lm} aaDdd \xRightarrow{lm} aabDcdd \xRightarrow{lm} aabbccdd$$

It can be shown that *every* grammar for L behaves like the one above. The proof is complex.

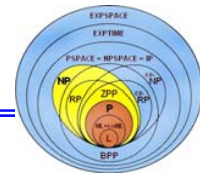
The language L is inherently ambiguous.





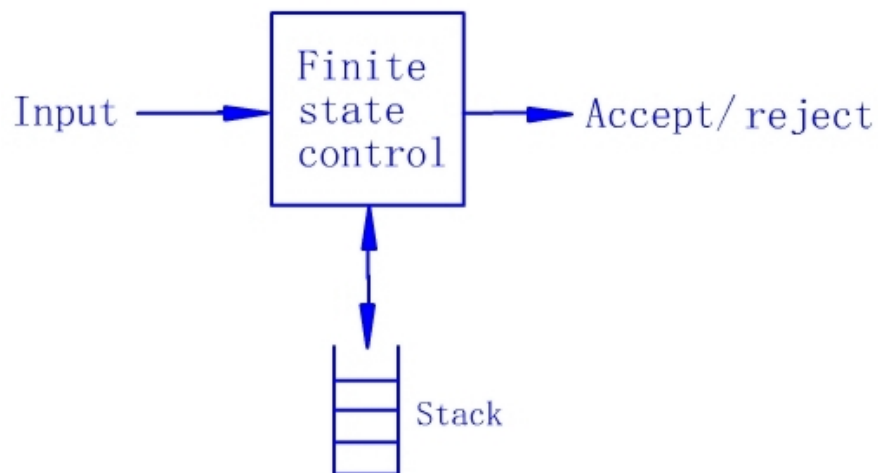
Pushdown Automata

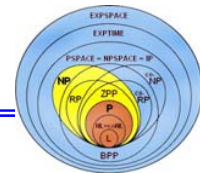




Definition of PDA

A pushdown automata (PDA) is essentially an ϵ -NFA with a stack.





On a transition the PDA:

1. Consumes an input symbol.
2. Goes to a new state (or stays in the old).
3. Replaces the symbol at the top of the stack by any string. (It could be ϵ , pops the stack; same symbol, does nothing; one other symbol, changes the top of the stack but does not push or pop it; two or more symbols, changes the top stack symbol, and then pushes one or more new symbols onto the stack.)



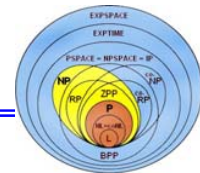


Example Let's consider $L_{ww^R} = \{ww^R \mid w \in \{0, 1\}^*\}$ with grammar $S \rightarrow 0S0 \mid 1S1 \mid \epsilon$.

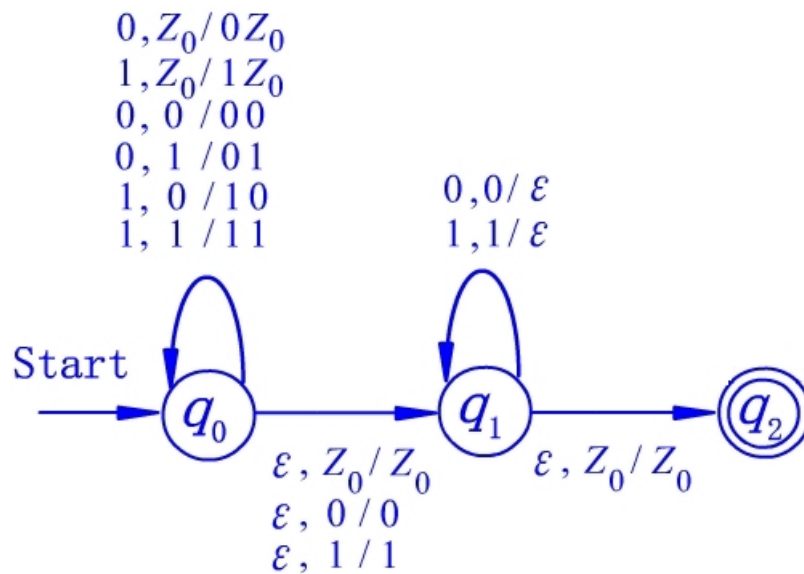
A PDA for L_{ww^R} has three states, and operates as follows:

1. Guess that you're reading w . Stay in q_0 , and push the input symbol onto the stack.
2. Guess that you're in the middle of ww^R . Go spontaneously to state q_1 .
3. You're reading the head of w^R . Compare it to the top of the stack. If match, pop the stack, and remain in state q_1 . If non't match, go to sleep.
4. If the stack is empty, go to state q_2 and accept.





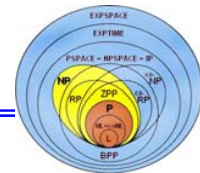
The PDA for L_{wwr} as a transition diagram:



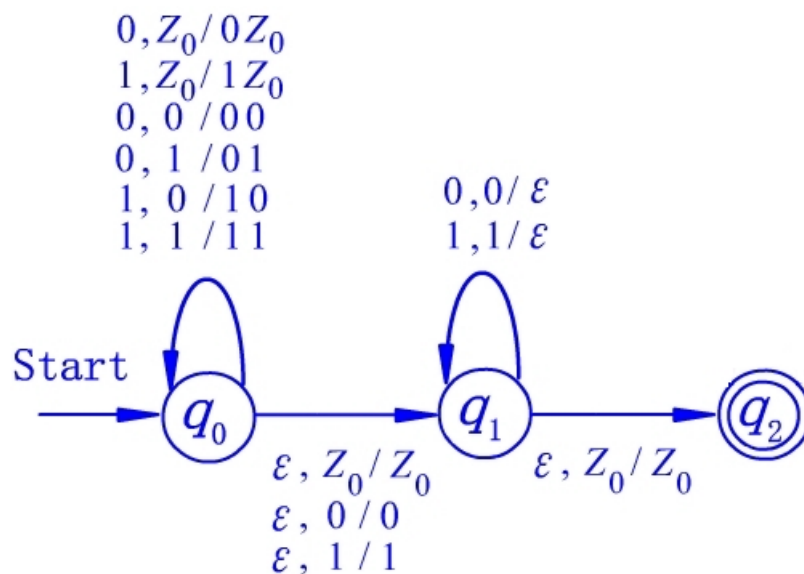
A **Pushdown Automaton (PDA)** is a 7-tuple $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0, F)$.

- Q is a finite set of *states*.
- Σ is a finite *input alphabet*.
- Γ is a finite *stack alphabet*.
- δ is a *transition function* from $Q \times \Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\} \times \Gamma$ to $2^{Q \times \Gamma^*}$.
- q_0 is a *start state*, a member of Q .
- Z_0 is the *start symbol* for the stack bing in Γ .
- F is a set of *accepting states*, a subset of Q .

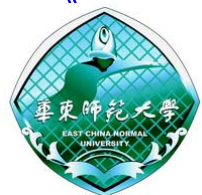




Example The PDA



is actually the seven-tuple as follows.





$$P = (\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}, \{0, 1\}, \{0, 1, Z_0\}, \delta, q_0, Z_0, \{q_2\})$$

where δ is given by the following table (set brackets missing):

	0, Z_0	1, Z_0	0, 0	0, 1	1, 0	1, 1	ϵ , Z_0	ϵ , 0	ϵ , 1
$\rightarrow q_0$	$q_0, 0Z_0$	$q_0, 1Z_0$	$q_0, 00$	$q_0, 01$	$q_0, 10$	$q_0, 11$	q_1, Z_0	$q_1, 0$	$q_1, 1$
q_1	—	—	q_1, ϵ	—	—	q_1, ϵ	q_2, Z_0	—	—
$\star q_2$	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—





Instantaneous Description

A PDA goes from configuration to configuration when consuming input.

To reason about PDA computation, we use **instantaneous description (ID)** of the PDA. An ID is a triple

$$(q, w, \gamma)$$

where q is the state, w the remaining input, and γ the stack contents.





Let $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0, F)$ be a PDA. Then $\forall w \in \Sigma^*, \beta \in \Gamma^*$:

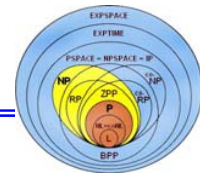
$$(p, \alpha) \in \delta(q, a, X) \Rightarrow (q, aw, X\beta) \vdash (p, w, \alpha\beta).$$

We define \vdash^* to be the reflexive-transitive closure of \vdash :

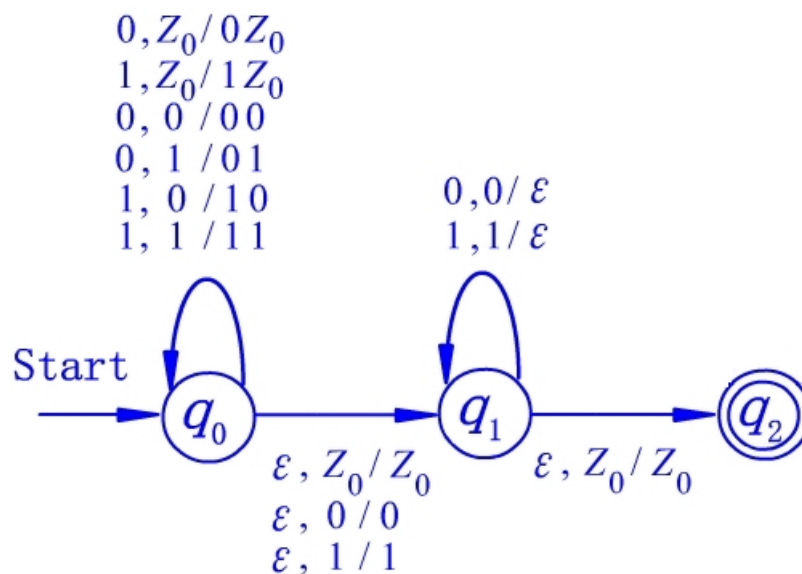
Basis step: $I \vdash^* I$ for any ID I .

Inductive step: $I \vdash^* J$ if there exists some ID K such that $I \vdash K$ and $K \vdash^* J$.

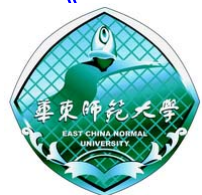


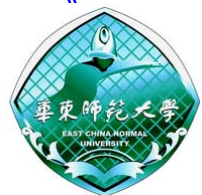
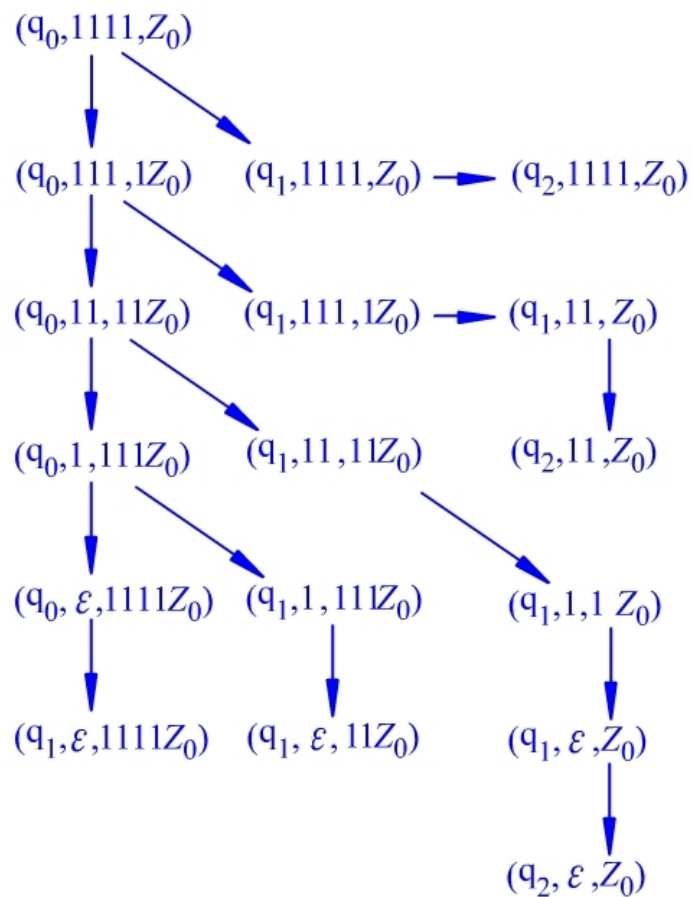
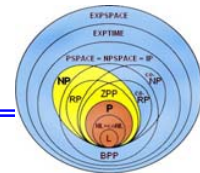


Example On input 1111 the PDA



has the following computation sequences.







There are three important principles about ID's and their transitions:

1. If an ID sequence is a legal computation for a PDA, then so is the sequence obtained by adding an additional string at the end of component number two.
2. If an ID sequence is a legal computation for a PDA, then so is the sequence obtained by adding an additional string at the bottom of component number three.
3. If an ID sequence is a legal computation for a PDA, and some tail of the input is not consumed, then removing this tail from all ID's result in a legal computation sequence.





Theorem 6.1 Let $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0, F)$ be a PDA. Then $\forall w \in \Sigma^*, \gamma \in \Gamma^*$:

$$(q, x, \alpha) \vdash^* (p, y, \beta) \Rightarrow (q, xw, \alpha\gamma) \vdash^* (p, yw, \beta\gamma).$$

Proof Introduction on the number of steps in the sequence of ID's that take (q, x, α) to (p, y, β) . ◀

Note that if $\gamma = \epsilon$ we have the first principle above, and if $w = \epsilon$, then we have the second principle.

☞ The reverse of the theorem is false.



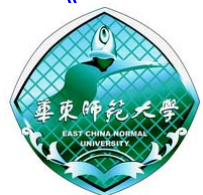


We state the third principle formally as:

Theorem 6.2 Let $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0, F)$ be a PDA.

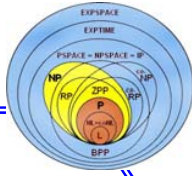
$$(q, xw, \alpha) \vdash^* (p, yw, \beta) \Rightarrow (q, x, \alpha) \vdash^* (p, y, \beta).$$

✎ Although a FA has no stack, we could use a pair (q, w) as the ID of a finite automaton. For any FA, we could show that $\hat{\delta}(q, w) = p$ if and only if $(q, wx) \vdash^* (p, x)$ for all strings x . The fact that x can be anything we wish without influencing the behavior of the FA is a theorem analogous to Theorem 6.1 and 6.2.





BREAK FOR 15 MINUTES



The Language of a Pushdown Automaton

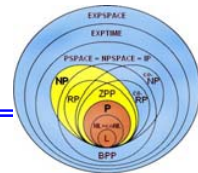




We have two approaches to defining the language of a PDA: “acceptance by final state” and “acceptance by empty stack”.

- These two methods are equivalent, in the sense that a language L has a PDA that accepts it by final state iff L has a PDA that accepts it by empty stack.
- For given PDA P , the languages that P accepts by final state and by empty stack are usually different.





Acceptance by the Final State

Let $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0, F)$ be a PDA. The **language accepted by P by final state** is

$$L(P) = \{w \mid (q_0, w, Z_0) \vdash^* (q, \epsilon, \alpha), q \in F\}.$$

Example Below PDA accepts exactly L_{wwr} by final state.

	$0, Z_0$	$1, Z_0$	$0, 0$	$0, 1$	$1, 0$	$1, 1$	ϵ, Z_0	$\epsilon, 0$	$\epsilon, 1$
$\rightarrow q_0$	$q_0, 0Z_0$	$q_0, 1Z_0$	$q_0, 00$	$q_0, 01$	$q_0, 10$	$q_0, 11$	q_1, Z_0	$q_1, 0$	$q_1, 1$
q_1	—	—	q_1, ϵ	—	—	q_1, ϵ	q_2, Z_0	—	—
$\star q_2$	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—





Let $P = (\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}, \{0, 1\}, \{0, 1, Z_0\}, \delta, q_0, Z_0, \{q_2\})$ be the machine. We prove that $L(P) = L_{ww^R}$.

(\supseteq -direction) Let $x \in L_{ww^R}$. Then $x = ww^R$, and the following is a legal computation sequence

$$(q_0, ww^R, Z_0) \vdash^* (q_0, w^R, w^R Z_0) \vdash (q_1, w^R, w^R Z_0) \vdash^* (q_1, \epsilon, Z_0) \vdash (q_2, \epsilon, Z_0).$$

(\subseteq -direction) Observe that the only way the PDA can enter q_2 is if it is in state q_1 with an empty stack. Thus it is sufficient to show that if $(q_0, x, Z_0) \vdash^* (q_1, \epsilon, Z_0)$ then $x = ww^R$, for some word w .





We'll show by induction on $|x|$ that

$$(q_0, x, \alpha) \vdash^* (q_1, \epsilon, \alpha) \Rightarrow x = ww^R.$$

Basis step: If $x = \epsilon$ then x is a palindrome.

Inductive step: Suppose $x = a_1a_2 \cdots a_n$, where $n > 0$, and the induction hypothesis holds for shorter strings. There are two moves for the PDA from $ID(q_0, x, \alpha)$:

Move 1: The spontaneous $(q_0, x, \alpha) \vdash (q_1, x, \alpha)$. Now $(q_1, x, \alpha) \vdash^* (q_1, \epsilon, \beta)$ implies that $|\beta| < |\alpha|$, which implies $\beta \neq \alpha$.





Move 2: Loop and push $(q_0, a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n, \alpha) \vdash (q_0, a_2 \cdots a_n, a_1 \alpha)$. In this case there is a sequence

$$(q_0, a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n, \alpha) \vdash (q_0, a_2 \cdots a_n, a_1 \alpha) \vdash \cdots \vdash (q_1, a_n, a_1 \alpha) \vdash (q_1, \epsilon, \alpha).$$

Thus $a_1 = a_n$ and $(q_0, a_2 \cdots a_n, a_1 \alpha) \vdash^* (q_1, a_n, a_1 \alpha)$. By Theorem 6.2 we can remove a_n . Therefore

$$(q_0, a_2 \cdots a_{n-1}, a_1 \alpha) \vdash^* (q_1, \epsilon, a_1 \alpha).$$

Then, by the induction hypothesis $a_2 \cdots a_{n-1} = yy^R$. Then $x = a_1 yy^R a_n$ is a palindrome. ◀





Acceptance by the Empty Stack

Let $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0, F)$ be a PDA. The **language accepted by P by empty stack** is

$$N(P) = \{w \mid (q_0, w, Z_0) \vdash^* (q, \epsilon, \epsilon)\}$$

for any state q .

Question How to modify the palindrome PDA to accept by empty stack?

Since the set of accepting states is irrelevant, we would write a PDA P as a six-tuple $(Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0)$ if all we care about is the language that P accepts by empty stack.





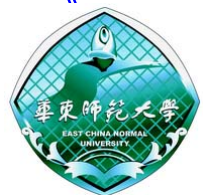
From Empty Stack to Final State

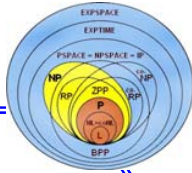
Theorem 6.3 If $L = N(P_N)$ for some PDA $P_N = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta_N, q_0, Z_0)$, then there exists a PDA P_F such that $L = L(P_F)$.

Proof Let $P_F = (Q \cup \{p_0, p_f\}, \Sigma, \Gamma \cup \{X_0\}, \delta_F, p_0, X_0, \{p_f\})$ where $\delta_F(p_0, \epsilon, X_0) = \{(q_0, Z_0 X_0)\}$, and for all $q \in Q, a \in \Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}, Y \in \Gamma$

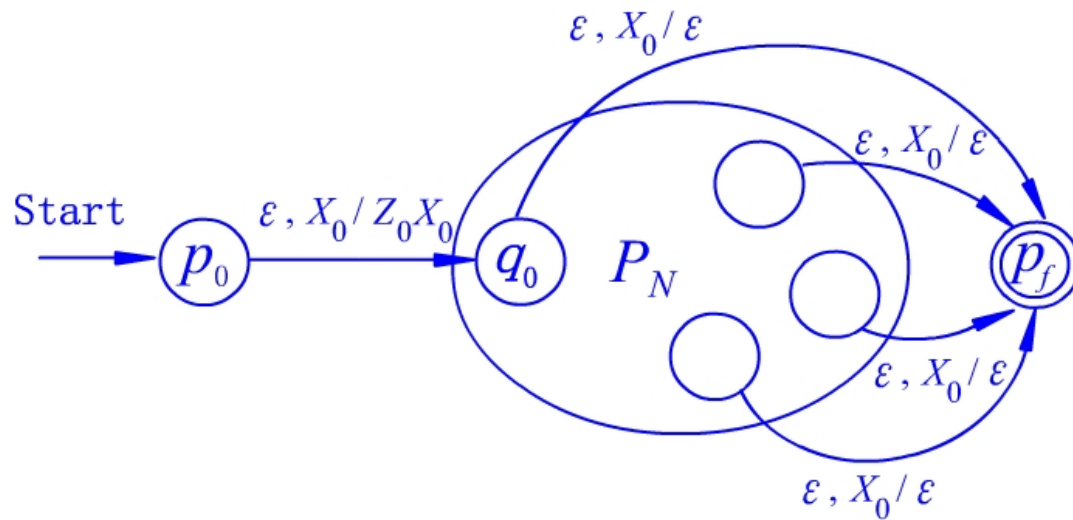
$$\delta_F(q, a, Y) = \delta_N(q, a, Y),$$

and in addition $(p_f, \epsilon) \in \delta_F(q, \epsilon, X_0)$.



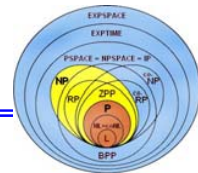


The diagram is



We have show that $L(P_F) = N(P_N)$.





(\subseteq -direction) By inspecting the diagram.

(\supseteq -direction) Let $w \in N(P_N)$. Then $(q_0, w, Z_0) \stackrel{*}{\vdash}_N (q, \epsilon, \epsilon)$, for some q . From Theorem 6.1 we get

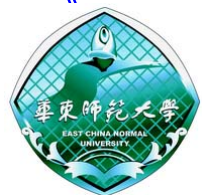
$$(q_0, w, Z_0 X_0) \stackrel{*}{\vdash}_N (q, \epsilon, X_0).$$

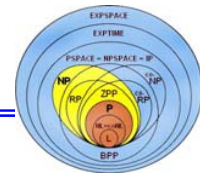
Since $\delta_N \subset \delta_F$ we have

$$(q_0, w, Z_0 X_0) \stackrel{*}{\vdash}_F (q, \epsilon, X_0).$$

We conclude that

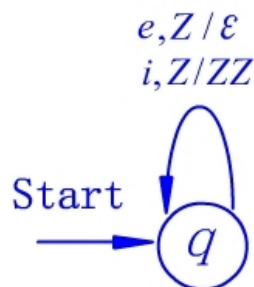
$$(p_0, w, X_0) \vdash_F (q_0, w, Z_0 X_0) \stackrel{*}{\vdash}_F (q, \epsilon, X_0) \vdash_F (p_f, \epsilon, \epsilon).$$





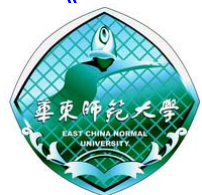
Example Let's design P_N for catching errors in strings meant to be in the *if-else*-grammar G : $S \rightarrow \epsilon | SS | iS | iS e$.

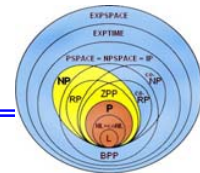
The diagram for P_N is



Formally, $P_N = (\{q\}, \{i, e\}, \{Z\}, \delta_N, q, Z)$, where

$$\delta_N(q, i, Z) = \{(q, ZZ)\} \quad \delta_N(q, e, Z) = \{(q, \epsilon)\}.$$



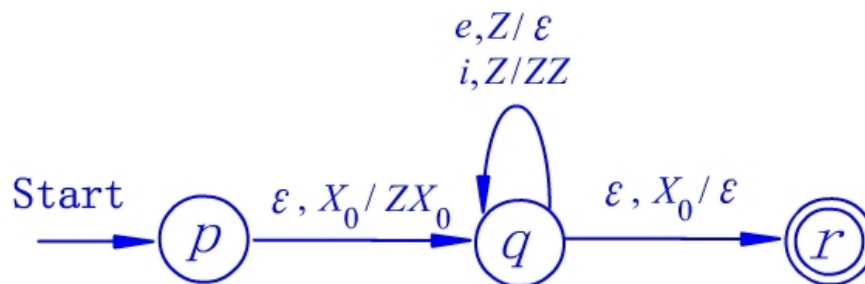


From P_N we can construct $P_F = (\{p, q, r\}, \{i, e\}, \{Z, X_0\}, \delta_F, p, X_0, \{r\})$, where

$$\delta_F(p, \epsilon, X_0) = \{(q, ZX_0)\}, \quad \delta_F(q, i, Z) = \delta_N(q, i, Z) = \{(q, ZZ)\},$$

$$\delta_F(q, e, Z) = \delta_N(q, e, Z) = \{(q, \epsilon)\}, \quad \delta_F(q, \epsilon, X_0) = \{(r, \epsilon)\}$$

The diagram for P_F is





From Final State to Empty Stack

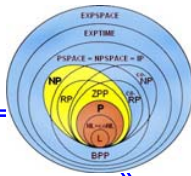
Theorem 6.4 Let $L = L(P_F)$, for some PDA $P_F = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta_F, q_0, Z_0, F)$. Then there is a PDA P_N such that $L = N(P_N)$.

Proof Let $P_N = (Q \cup \{p_0, p\}, \Sigma, \Gamma \cup \{X_0\}, \delta_N, p_0, X_0)$, where $\delta_N(p_0, \epsilon, X_0) = \{(q_0, Z_0 X_0)\}$, $\delta_N(p, \epsilon, Y) = \{(p, \epsilon)\}$ for $Y \in \Gamma \cup \{X_0\}$, and for all $q \in Q, a \in \Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}, Y \in \Gamma$

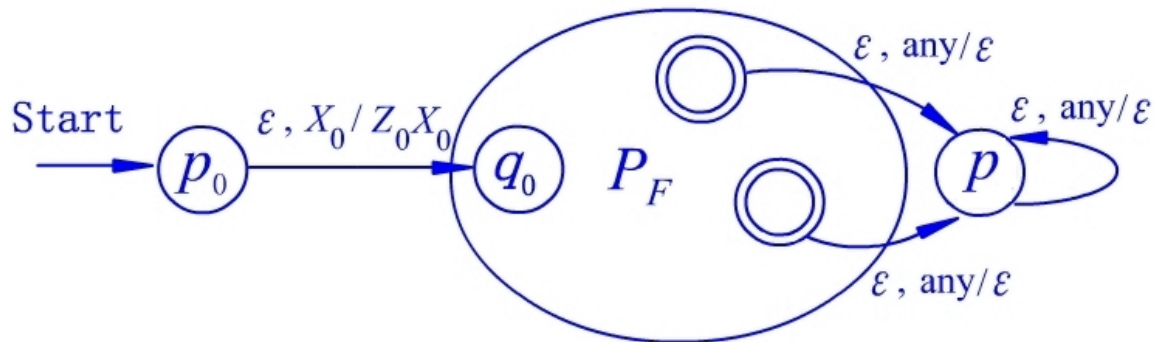
$$\delta_N(q, a, Y) = \delta_F(q, a, Y),$$

and in addition $\forall q \in F$, and $Y \in \Gamma \cup \{X_0\}$: $(p, \epsilon) \in \delta_N(q, \epsilon, Y)$.



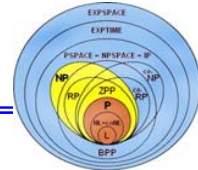


The diagram is



We have show that $N(P_N) = L(P_F)$.





(\subseteq -direction) By inspecting the diagram.

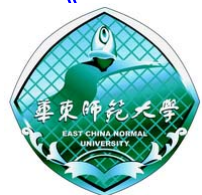
(\supseteq -direction) Let $w \in L(P_F)$. Then $(q_0, w, Z_0) \stackrel{*}{\vdash}_F (q, \epsilon, \alpha)$, for some $q \in F$, $\alpha \in \Gamma^*$.

Since $\delta_F \subset \delta_N$, and Theorem 6.1 says that X_0 can be slid under the stack, we get

$$(q_0, w, Z_0 X_0) \stackrel{*}{\vdash}_N (q, \epsilon, \alpha X_0).$$

The P_N can compute

$$(p_0, w, X_0) \vdash_N (q_0, w, Z_0 X_0) \stackrel{*}{\vdash}_N (q, \epsilon, \alpha X_0) \vdash_N (p, \epsilon, \epsilon).$$





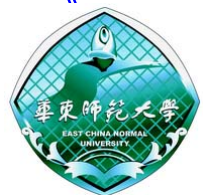
Example What languages is accepted by following PDA with final state?

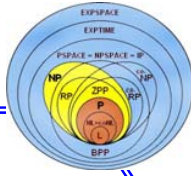
$$P = (\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, b, Z_0\}, \delta, q_0, Z_0, \{q_2\})$$

with transitions $\delta(q_0, a, Z_0) = \{(q_1, a), (q_2, \epsilon)\}$, $\delta(q_1, b, a) = \{(q_1, b)\}$, $\delta(q_1, b, b) = \{(q_1, b)\}$, $\delta(q_1, a, b) = \{(q_2, \epsilon)\}$.

Solution $L = \{a\} \cup L(abb^*a)$.

What language accepted by empty stack?





Thank you!



