

Let $G = (V, T, P, S)$ be a context-free grammar in Chomsky normal form. Prove that for each $w \in L(G)$, the height of its derivation-tree is at least $\lceil \log_2(|w|) \rceil$.

First we'll prove the following lemma: $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, n \in \mathbb{Z}, x \leq n \longrightarrow \lceil x \rceil \leq n$.

Let $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ be such that $x \leq n$, It is clear that $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}, k - 1 < x \leq k$.

We will show that $k \leq n$ by contradiction:

Suppose that $k > n$, Therefore we get that $k - 1 > n - 1$ and so

$n - 1 < k - 1 < x \leq n < k$, In particular we get that $n - 1 < k$ and $k - 1 < n$, Thus $n - k < 1$ and $-1 < n - k$, and so $-1 < n - k < 1$, Now since $n, k \in \mathbb{Z}$ we get that

$n - k \in \mathbb{Z}$, Thus, It must be the case that $n - k = 0$ and so $n = k$. But this

contradicts the assumption $k > n$ and we reached a contradiction. Therefore it must be the case that $k \leq n$, Now by definition of $\lceil \cdot \rceil$ we get that

$k = \lceil x \rceil$ and so $\lceil x \rceil \leq n$, as was to be shown.

Now by **Theorem 7.7** we get that $|w| \leq 2^{i-1}$ where i is the height of the derivation-tree of w , Now by taking \log_2 of both side of the inequality we get that $\log_2(|w|) \leq \log_2(2^{i-1}) = i - 1$ and so $\log_2(|w|) \leq i - 1$, Now since $i - 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$, We get by the lemma that $\lceil \log_2(|w|) \rceil \leq i - 1$ and so $\lceil \log_2(|w|) \rceil + 1 \leq i$ as was to be shown.

Q.E.D.
