

Assume for a contradiction that  $L$  is context-free. Then, by the pumping lemma for context-free languages, there exists a pumping length  $p$ . Let  $w \in L$  be  $a^{p+1}b^p c^{p+1}$ . Clearly,  $|w| \geq p$ . By the pumping lemma,  $w$  can be split into  $uvxyz$  such that  $|vxy| \leq p$ ,  $|vy| > 0$  and  $uv^i xy^i z \in L$  for any non-negative integer  $i$ . Use case distinction on  $vy$  to show that this is not possible:

Case  $vy$  contains only a's:

Taking  $i = 0$  will result in  $uv^0 xy^0 z = uxz$  which will have less than  $p + 1$  a's, thus at most  $p$  a's. However, the number of a's has to be greater than the number of b's, but there are  $p$  b's in  $uxz$ .

Case  $vy$  contains only b's:

Taking  $i = 2$  will result in  $uv^2 xy^2 z = uvvxyyz$  which will have more than  $p$  b's and thus at least  $p + 1$  b's. However, the number of a's ( $p + 1$ ) must be greater than the number of b's.

Case  $vy$  contains only c's:

Taking  $i = 0$  will result in  $uv^0 xy^0 z = uxz$  which will have less than  $p + 1$  c's, thus at most  $p$  c's. However, the number of c's has to be greater than the number of b's, but there are  $p$  b's in  $uxz$ .

Case  $vy$  contains multiple different characters:

Since the a's and c's in  $w$  are separated by  $p$  b's,  $vy$  must contain b and either a or c, but not both. Taking  $i = 2$  will generate an extra b, so  $uvvxyyz$  will have at least  $p + 1$  b's. However, the number of a's or c's will still be  $p + 1$  since  $vy$  can't contain both characters. Thus the number of a's or the number of c's will not be greater than the number of b's.

Since there are only 3 possible characters and  $|vy| > 0$ , these were all cases. Since each case lead to a contradiction, the assumption that  $L$  is context-free must have been false. Thus  $L$  is not context-free.