

2.2. Complexity of Natural Languages



context free grammars(type 2): rules of the form $X \rightarrow \alpha$ where X is a single non-terminal symbol, α are nonempty sequence of symbols.

(right) regular grammars(type 3): rules of the form $X \rightarrow a$ and $X \rightarrow aN$ where X and N are nonterminal symbols, and a is a terminal symbol.

(left) regular grammars(type 3): rules of the form $X \rightarrow a$ and $X \rightarrow Na$ where X and N are nonterminal symbols, and a is a terminal symbol.

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The Chomsky Hierarchy

- **unrestricted** or **type-0** grammars, generate the *recursively enumerable* languages, automata equals *Turing machines*
- **context-sensitive** grammars, generate the *context-sensitive* languages, automata equals *Linear Bounded Automata*
- **context-free** grammars generate the *context-free* languages. automata equals *Pushdown Automata*
- **regular** grammars, generate the *regular* languages, automata equals *Finite-State Automata*

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- * A language is *recursively enumerable* if there exists a Turing machine that **accepts** every string of the language, and **does not accept** strings that are not in the language.

"Does not accept" is *not* the same as "reject" -- the Turing machine could go into an infinite loop instead, and never get around to either accepting *or* rejecting the string.

The languages generated by unrestricted grammars are precisely the recursively enumerable languages.

- * A language is *recursive* if there exists a Turing machine that **accepts** every string of the language and **rejects** every string (over the same alphabet) that is not in the language.

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Recursively enumerable languages

Recursive languages

Decidable language (definition)

Definition: A language for which membership can be decided by an *algorithm* that halts on all inputs in a finite number of steps --- equivalently, can be recognized by a *Turing machine* that halts for all inputs.

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| Generative capacity of grammars

Any grammar G that is a type $n (> 0)$ grammar is also a type $n-1$ grammar.

Any language that is a type $n (> 0)$ language is also a type $n-1$ language.



