

## 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,  $\alpha$  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.

## 2.2. Complexity of Natural Languages



### 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.



