

is converted into Chomsky normal form (CNF), one can easily answer whether a particular string is generated by the grammar or not. A polynomial time algorithm called CYK algorithm can be constructed to check this. For a CFG converted into CNF, the parse tree generated from the CNF is always a binary tree. Similarly, if a CFG is converted into Greibach normal form (GNF), then a PDA accepting the language generated by the grammar can easily be designed. In this section we shall learn mainly two types of normal forms: (a) CNF and (b) GNF.

6.7 .1 Chomsky Normal Form

A CFG is said to be in CNF if all the productions of the grammar are in the following form

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Non-terminal} &\rightarrow \text{String of exactly two non-terminals} \\ \text{Non-terminal} &\rightarrow \text{Single terminal} \end{aligned}$$

A CFG can be converted into CNF by the following process.

Step I:

1. Eliminate all the ϵ -production.
2. Eliminate all the unit production.
3. Eliminate all the useless symbols.

Step II:

1. **if** (all the productions are in the form $NT \rightarrow$ string of exactly two NTs or $NT \rightarrow$ Single terminal) Declare the CFG is in CNF. And stop.
2. **else** (follow step III and/or IV and/or V).

Step III: (Elimination of terminals on the RHS of length two or more.) Consider any production of the form

$$NT \rightarrow T_1 T_2 \dots T_n$$

where $n \geq 2$ (T means terminal and NT means non-terminal). For a terminal T , introduce a new variable (non-terminal) say NT , and a corresponding production $NT \rightarrow T$. Repeat this for every terminal on the RHS so that every production of the grammar has either a single terminal or two or more variables.

Step IV: (Restriction of the number of variables on the RHS to two.) Consider any production of the form

$$NT \rightarrow NT_1 NT_2 \dots NT_n$$

where $n \geq 3$.

The production $NT \rightarrow NT_1 NT_2 \dots NT_n$ is replaced by new productions

$$\begin{aligned} NT &\rightarrow NT_1 A_1 \\ A_1 &\rightarrow NT_2 A_2 \\ A_2 &\rightarrow NT_3 A_3 \\ \dots & \\ A_{a-2} &\rightarrow NT_{n-1} NT_n \end{aligned}$$

Here the A_i 's are new variables.