

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 $\text{NT} \rightarrow \text{string of exactly two NTs}$ or $\text{NT} \rightarrow \text{Single terminal}$) 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

$$\text{NT} \rightarrow T_1 T_2 \dots T_n$$

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 $\text{NT} \rightarrow T$. 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

$$\text{NT} \rightarrow \text{NT}_1 \text{NT}_2 \dots \text{NT}_n$$

where $n \geq 3$.

The production $\text{NT} \rightarrow \text{NT}_1 \text{NT}_2 \dots \text{NT}_n$ is replaced by new productions

$$\begin{aligned}\text{NT} &\rightarrow \text{NT}_1 A_1 \\ A_1 &\rightarrow \text{NT}_2 A_2 \\ A_2 &\rightarrow \text{NT}_3 A_3 \\ &\dots\dots\dots \\ &\dots\dots\dots \\ A_{n-2} &\rightarrow \text{NT}_{n-1} \text{NT}_n\end{aligned}$$

Here the A_i 's are new variables.