

1 CFG recap (★)

Let G be the following CFG.

$$\begin{aligned} R &\rightarrow XRX \mid S \\ S &\rightarrow \mathbf{a}T\mathbf{b} \mid \mathbf{b}T\mathbf{a} \\ T &\rightarrow XTX \mid X \mid \varepsilon \\ X &\rightarrow \mathbf{a} \mid \mathbf{b} \end{aligned}$$

1. What are the variables, terminals and the start variable of G ?
2. Give three strings in $L(G)$ and three strings not in $L(G)$.
3. Which of the following nine statements are true?

$$\begin{array}{lll} (1.) T \Rightarrow \mathbf{aba} & (4.) T \xRightarrow{*} T & (7.) T \xRightarrow{*} XX \\ (2.) T \xRightarrow{*} \mathbf{aba} & (5.) XXX \xRightarrow{*} \mathbf{aba} & (8.) T \xRightarrow{*} XXX \\ (3.) T \Rightarrow T & (6.) X \xRightarrow{*} \mathbf{aba} & (9.) S \xRightarrow{*} \varepsilon \end{array}$$

4. (★★) Describe $L(G)$ in English, and give a direct set-theoretic characterisation of $L(G)$.

2 Arithmetic (★)

Consider the following CFG.

$$\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow E + T \mid T \\ T &\rightarrow T \times F \mid F \\ F &\rightarrow (E) \mid \mathbf{a} \end{aligned}$$

Give parse trees and derivations for

$$(1.) \mathbf{a} \quad (2.) \mathbf{a+a} \quad (3.) \mathbf{a+a+a} \quad (4.) ((\mathbf{a}))$$

3 Constructing CFGs (★)

Give CFGs for the following languages over the alphabet $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

1. $\{w \mid w \text{ contains at least three '1's}\}$
2. $\{w \mid w \text{ starts and ends with the same symbol}\}$
3. $\{w \mid \text{the length of } w \text{ is odd}\}$
4. $\{w \mid \text{the length of } w \text{ is odd and the middle symbol is a 0}\}$
5. $\{w \mid w \text{ is a palindrome}\}$
6. The empty set.

4 Another Context-Free Language (★★)

Give a CFG for the following language.

$$L = \{x\#y \mid x, y \in \{0, 1\}^* \text{ and } |x| \neq |y|\}$$

5 Chomsky Normal Form

- (★) Convert the following CFG into Chomsky normal form using the standard procedure.

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow BAB \mid B \mid \varepsilon \\ B &\rightarrow 00 \mid \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

- (★★) Show that for a grammar G in Chomsky normal form, for any string $w \in L(G)$ of length $n \geq 1$ any derivation of w requires exactly $2n - 1$ steps.

6 Seeing Stars (★★)

The following construction does *not* prove that the class of context-free languages is closed under the star operation. Give a counterexample to show why.

“Let A be a context-free language. Let $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$ be a CFG for A . Add the new rule $S \rightarrow SS$. This is a CFG for A^* .”

7 The C Programmer’s Nightmare

Consider the following CFG for a fragment of a programming language.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \text{STMT} \rangle &\rightarrow \langle \text{ASSIGN} \rangle \mid \langle \text{IFTHEN} \rangle \mid \langle \text{IFTHENELSE} \rangle \\ \langle \text{IFTHEN} \rangle &\rightarrow \text{if condition then } \langle \text{STMT} \rangle \\ \langle \text{IFTHENELSE} \rangle &\rightarrow \text{if condition then } \langle \text{STMT} \rangle \text{ else } \langle \text{STMT} \rangle \\ \langle \text{ASSIGN} \rangle &\rightarrow \text{a:=1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma &= \{\text{if, condition, then, else, a:=1}\} \\ V &= \{\langle \text{STMT} \rangle, \langle \text{IFTHEN} \rangle, \langle \text{IFTHENELSE} \rangle, \langle \text{ASSIGN} \rangle\} \end{aligned}$$

- (★) Show that this grammar is ambiguous.
- (★★) Give an unambiguous grammar for the same language.