

## Context free grammar (CFG)!

Defn. A type 2 production is a production of the form  $A \rightarrow \alpha$ , where  $A \in V_N$  and  $\alpha \in (V_N \cup \Sigma)^*$ . In other words, the LHS. has no left context or right context. e.g.  $S \rightarrow Aa$ ,  $A \rightarrow a$ ,  $B \rightarrow abc$ ,  $A \rightarrow A$  are type 2 productions.

Defn. A grammar is called a type 2 grammar if it contains only type 2 productions. It is also called a context-free grammar (as  $A$  can be reduced by  $\alpha$  in any context).

A language generated by context-free grammar is called context-free language.

Derivation Trees: The derivations in a CFG can be represented by trees. Such trees are called derivation trees.

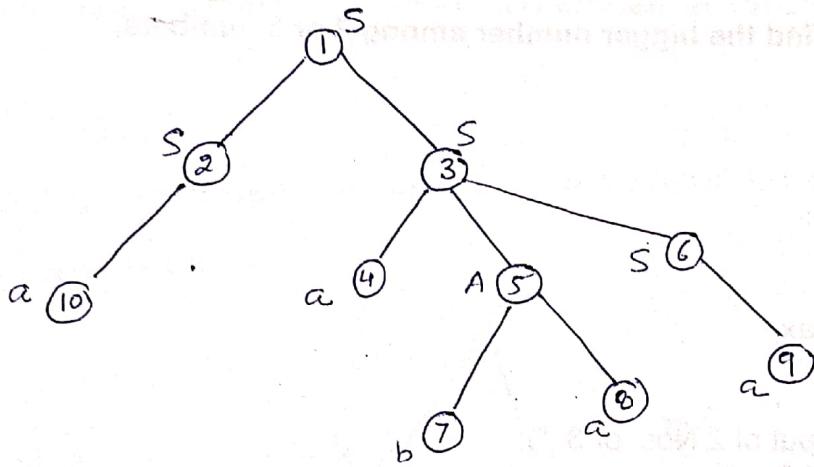
Defn. A derivation tree for a CFG  $G = (V_N, \Sigma, P, S)$  is a tree satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) every vertex has a label which is a variable or terminal.
- (ii) The root has label  $S$ .
- (iii) The label of an internal vertex is a variable.
- (iv) If the vertices  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k$  written with labels  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  are the sons of vertex  $n$  with label  $A$ , then  $A \rightarrow x_1 x_2 \dots$  is a production in  $P$ .
- (v) A vertex  $n$  is a leaf if its label is  $a \in \Sigma$  or  $\Lambda$ ;  $n$  has only son of its father if its label is  $\Lambda$ .

e.g. Let  $G = (\{S, A\}, \{a, b\}, P, S)$



Let  $G = (\{S, A\}, \{a, b\}, P, S)$



$$S \rightarrow SS/a/aAS, \quad A \rightarrow ba$$

Defn. The yield of a derivation tree is the concatenation of the labels of the leaves without repetition in the left-to-right-ordering.

e.g. the yield of the above derivation tree is  $aabaa$ .

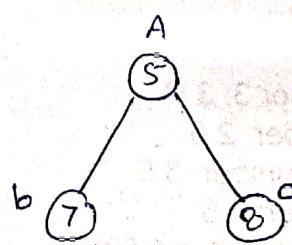
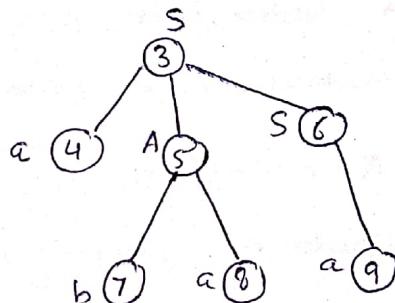
In the above tree,

$$S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow AS \rightarrow aAAS \rightarrow aabAS \rightarrow aabaa$$

Thus the yield of the derivation tree is a sentential form in  $G$ .

Defn. A subtree of a derivation tree  $T$  is a tree (i) whose root is some vertex  $v$  of  $T$ , (ii) whose vertices are the descendants of  $v$  together with their labels, and (iii) whose edges are those connecting the descendants of  $v$ .

e.g.

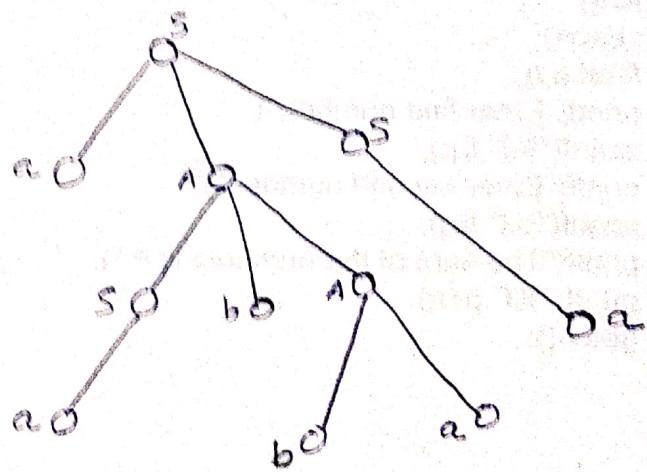


Note: A subtree look like a D-tree except that the label of the root may not be  $S$ . It is called an A-tree if the label of its root is  $A$ .

(3)

Ex: Consider a variable production set  $S \rightarrow aAS/a$ ,  $A \rightarrow SbA/ss/ba$ . Show that  $S \Rightarrow^* aabbba$  and construct a D-tree whose yield is aabbba.

Soln:  $S \rightarrow aAS \rightarrow aSbAs \rightarrow aaBba \rightarrow aabbba$ ,  
 i.  $S \Rightarrow^* aabbba$ .



Also we can write

$$S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow a} a \xrightarrow{A \rightarrow SbA} aSbA \xrightarrow{a \rightarrow ba} aSbba \xrightarrow{s \rightarrow a} aabbba \quad (ii)$$

$$\text{Also, } S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow a} a \xrightarrow{A \rightarrow SbA} aSbA \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow a} aabA \xrightarrow{a \rightarrow ba} aabbba \quad (iii)$$

In derivation (i), whenever we replace a variable  $X$  using a production, there are no variables to the left of  $X$ . In (ii), there are no variables to the right of  $X$ . But in (iii), no such conditions are satisfied.

Defn. A derivation  $A \xrightarrow{*} w$  is called a 'leftmost' derivation if we apply a production only to the leftmost variable at every step.

Defn. A derivation  $A \xrightarrow{*} w$  is called a 'rightmost' derivation if we apply production to the rightmost variable at every step.

Ex: Let  $G$  be the grammar  $S \rightarrow 0B/1A$ ,  $A \rightarrow 0/0S/1AA$ ,  $B \rightarrow 1/1S/0BB$ . For the string 00110101, find (a) the left-most derivation, (b) the right-most derivation, and (c) the D-tree.

Soln.

(a)  $S \xrightarrow{B \rightarrow 0BB} 0B \xrightarrow{B \rightarrow I} 00BIB \xrightarrow{B \rightarrow IS} 001B \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow 0B} 0011S \xrightarrow{B \rightarrow IS} 00110B \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow 0B} 001101S \xrightarrow{B \rightarrow IS} 0011010B$  (4)

$\downarrow B \rightarrow I$        $\downarrow B \rightarrow IS$        $\downarrow B \rightarrow 0B$        $\downarrow B \rightarrow IS$        $\downarrow B \rightarrow 0B$

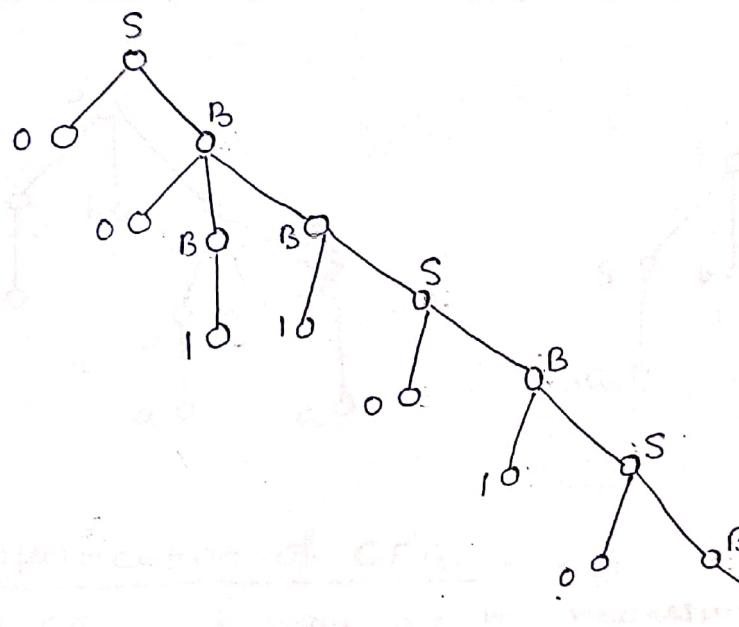
(b)  $S \xrightarrow{B \rightarrow 0BB} 0B \xrightarrow{B \rightarrow IS} 00BIS \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow 0B} 00B10B \xrightarrow{B \rightarrow IS} 00B101S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow 0B} 00B1010B$

$\downarrow B \rightarrow IS$

$00B1010B$

$\downarrow B \rightarrow I$

$00110101$



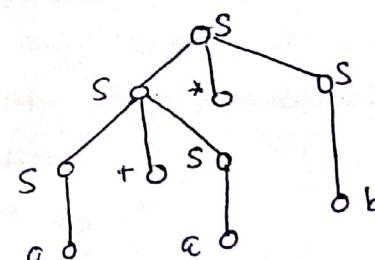
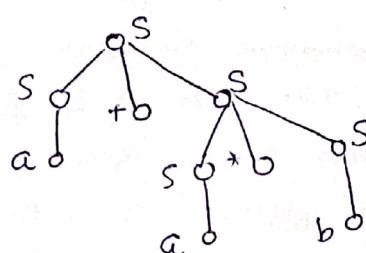
### Ambiguity in CFG:

Defn. A terminal string  $w \in L(G)$  is ambiguous if there exists two or more D-trees for  $w$  (or } two or more left most derivations of  $w$ ).

Ex.  $G = (\{S\}, \{a, b, +, *\}, P, S)$ , where  $P$  consists of  $S \rightarrow S+S / S*S / a/b$ . we have two D-trees for  $a+a*b$

$$S \rightarrow S+S \rightarrow a+S \rightarrow a+S*S \rightarrow a+a*S \rightarrow a+a*b$$

$$S \rightarrow S*S \rightarrow S+S*S \rightarrow a+S*S \rightarrow a+a*S \rightarrow a+a*b.$$



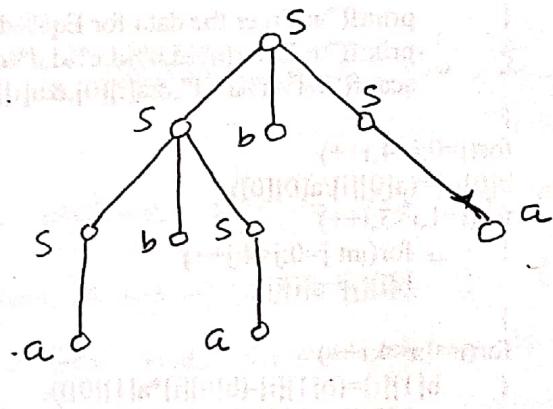
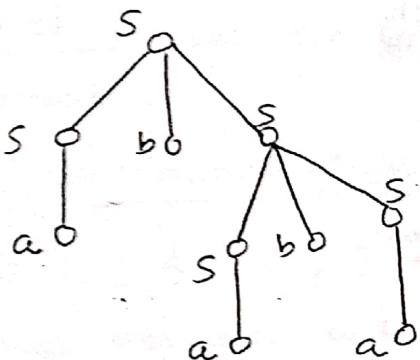
Defn. A CFG is ambiguous if. If some  $w \in L(G)$  which is ambiguous.

Ex If  $G$  is the grammar  $S \rightarrow SBS/a$ , show that  $G$  is ambiguous.

Sol.

$$\begin{array}{c} S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow a} S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow SBS} S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow a} a \\ S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow SBS} S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow SBS} S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow a} a \\ S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow SBS} S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow SBS} S \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow a} a \end{array}$$

$\therefore w = ababa \in L(G)$  which is ambiguous. Thus  $G$  is ambiguous.



### Simplification of CFG.

In a CFG, it may not be necessary to use all the symbols in  $V \cup V\Sigma$  or all the productions in  $P$  for deriving sentences. we may try to eliminate those symbols and productions in  $G$ , which are not useful for the derivation of sentences.

e.g.  $G = (\{S, A, B, C, E\}, \{a, b, c\}, P, S)$ , where

$$P = \{S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b, B \rightarrow C, E \rightarrow c/\Lambda\}$$

It is easy to see that  $L(G) = \{ab\}$ . Let  $G' = (\{S, A, B\}, \{a, b\}, P', S)$  where  $P' = \{S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b\}$ ,  $L(G) = L(G')$ . we have eliminated the symbols  $C, E$  &  $c$  and the productions  $B \rightarrow C$ ,  $E \rightarrow c/\Lambda$ . we note the following pts.

- (i)  $C$  does not appear derive any terminal strings
- (ii)  $E$  &  $c$  does not appear in any sentential form
- (iii)  $E \rightarrow \Lambda$  is a null production
- (iv)  $B \rightarrow C$  simply replaces  $B$  by  $C$ .

(6)

we give the construction to eliminate (i) variables not deriving terminal strings, (ii) symbols not appearing in any sentential form, (iii) null productions, and (iv) productions of the form  $A \rightarrow B$ .

### Construction of Reduced Grammars

Theorem. If  $G$  be a CFG s.t.  $L(G) \neq \emptyset$ , we can find an equivalent grammar  $G'$  s.t. each variable in  $G'$  derives some terminal string.

Proof. Let  $G = (V_N, \Sigma, P, S)$ . Define  $G' = (V'_N, \Sigma, P', S')$  as follows:

(a) construction of  $V'_N$  - we define  $W_i \subseteq V_N$  by recursion.  
 $W_1 = \{ A \in V_N \mid \exists \text{ production } A \rightarrow w, w \in \Sigma^* \}$ . (If  $W_1 = \emptyset$ , some variable will remain after the application of any production, and so  $L(G) = \emptyset$ ).

$W_{i+1} = W_i \cup \{ A \in V_N \mid \exists \text{ some production } A \rightarrow d, d \in (\Sigma \cup W_i)^* \}$ . By defn. of  $W_i$ ,  $W_i \subseteq W_{i+1} \forall i$ . As  $V_N$  is finite,  $W_k = W_{k+1}$  for some  $k \leq |V_N|$ . Therefore,  $W_k = W_{k+j}$  for  $j \geq 1$ . We define  $V'_N = W_k$ .

(b) construction of  $P'$ :  $P' = \{ A \rightarrow \alpha \mid A \in V'_N, \alpha \in (V'_N \cup \Sigma)^* \}$ .

we can define  $G' = (V'_N, \Sigma, P', S)$ .  $S \in V'_N$ . (If  $S \notin V'_N$ ,  $L(G') = \emptyset$ ) Now we are going to prove that every variable in  $V'_N$  derives some terminal string. So, we prove!

(i) If  $A \in V'_N$ , then  $A \xrightarrow[G']{*} w$  for some  $w \in \Sigma^*$ ; conversely, if  $A \xrightarrow[G']{*} w$ , then  $A \in V'_N$ .

(ii)  $L(G') = L(G)$ .

To prove (i) we note that  $W_k = W_1 \cup W_2 \cup \dots \cup W_k$ . we prove by induction on  $i$  that for  $i=1, 2, \dots, k$ ,  $A \in W_i$  implies  $A \xrightarrow[G']{*} w$  for some  $w \in \Sigma^*$ .

If  $A \in W_1$ , then  $A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega} \omega$ . So  $A \rightarrow \omega$  is in  $P^1$ . (7)

$\therefore A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega} \omega$ . Thus there is a basis for induction. Let us assume the result for i. Let  $A \in W_{1+i}$ . Then either  $A \in W_i$ , in which case,  $A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega} \omega$  for some  $\omega \in \Sigma^*$  by induction hypothesis, or  $\exists$  a production  $A \rightarrow \alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in (\Sigma \cup W_i)^*$ . By defn. of  $P^1$ ,  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  is in  $P^1$ , we can write  $\alpha = x_1 x_2 \dots x_m$  where  $x_j \in \Sigma \cup W_i$ . If  $x_j \in W_i$  by induction hypothesis,  $x_j \xrightarrow[G]{\omega_j}$  for some  $\omega_j \in \Sigma^*$ . So,  $A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega_1 \omega_2 \dots \omega_m} \omega \in \Sigma^*$  (when  $x_j$  is terminal,  $\omega_j = x_j$ ). By induction result is true for  $i=1, 2, \dots, k$ .

The converse part can be proved in a similar way by induction on the no. of steps in the derivation  $A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega} \omega$ .

We see immediately that  $L(G') \subseteq L(G)$ , as  $V_N' \subseteq V_N$  and  $P^1 \subseteq P$ . To prove  $L(G) \subseteq L(G')$ , we need an auxiliary result.

Result  $A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega} \omega$  if  $A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega}$  for some  $\omega \in \Sigma^*$ .

We prove this result by induction on the no. of steps in the derivation  $A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega} \omega$ .

If  $A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega} \omega$ , then  $A \rightarrow \omega$  is in  $P$  and  $A \in W_1 \subseteq V_N'$ . As  $A \in V_N'$

$\therefore A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega} \omega$ ,  $A \rightarrow \omega$  is in  $P^1$ . So  $A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega} \omega$ , and there is a  $\omega \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $A \rightarrow \omega$  is in  $P^1$ . Assume the result for derivations in at most  $k+1$  steps. Let  $A \xrightarrow[G]{k+1} \omega$ . We can split this as  $A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega_1 \omega_2 \dots \omega_m} \omega$  s.t.  $x_j \xrightarrow[G]{\omega_j}$ . If  $x_j \in \Sigma$  then  $\omega_j = x_j$ .

If  $x_j \in V_N$  then by (i),  $x_j \in V_N'$ . As  $x_j \xrightarrow[G]{\omega_j}$  in at most  $k$  steps,  $x_j \xrightarrow[G]{\omega_j}$ . Also  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m \in (\Sigma \cup V_N')^*$  implies

that  $A \rightarrow x_1 x_2 \dots x_m$  is in  $P^1$ . Thus

$A \xrightarrow[G]{\omega_1 \omega_2 \dots \omega_m} \omega$ . Hence result is true for all derivations. In particular,  $S \xrightarrow[G]{\omega} \omega$  implies  $S \xrightarrow[G]{\omega}$ .

•  $L(G) \subseteq L(G')$  and (ii) is completely proved.

Theorem (8). For every CFG  $G = (V_N, \Sigma, P, S)$ , we can construct an equivalent grammar  $G' = (V'_N, \Sigma', P', S)$  s.t. every symbol in  $V'_N \cup \Sigma'$  appears in some sentential form (i.e.  $\forall X \in (V'_N \cup \Sigma')$ ,  $\exists \alpha$  s.t.  $S \xrightarrow[G']{*} \alpha$  and  $X$  is a symbol in the string  $\alpha$ ).

We will not give complete proof but only construction of  $w_i, V'_N, \Sigma'$  &  $P'$ .

construct  $G' = (V'_N, \Sigma', P', S)$  as follows.

(a) construction of  $w_i$  for  $i \geq 1$

$$(i) w_1 = \{S\}.$$

(ii)  $w_{i+1} = w_i \cup \{X \in V_N \cup \Sigma \mid \exists \text{ a production } A \rightarrow d \text{ with } A \in w_i \text{ and } d \text{ containing the symbol } X\}$ .

$\therefore w_i \subseteq (V_N \cup \Sigma)$  &  $w_i \subseteq w_{i+1}$ . As  $(V_N \cup \Sigma)$  is finite,

$$w_k = w_{k+j} \quad \forall j \geq 0.$$

(b) construction of  $V'_N, \Sigma'$  and  $P'$

$$\text{Define } V'_N = V_N \cap w_k, \quad \Sigma' = \Sigma \cap w_k$$

$$P' = \{A \rightarrow d : A \in w_k\}$$

Defn. A grammar  $G = (V_N, \Sigma, P, S)$  is said to be reduced or non-redundant if every symbol in  $(V_N \cup \Sigma)$  appears in the course of the derivation of some terminal string, i.e.  $\forall X \in (V_N \cup \Sigma)$ ,  $\exists$  a derivation  $S \xrightarrow[G]{*} \alpha \xrightarrow{*} X \beta \xrightarrow{*} w \in L(G)$ .

Theorem. For every CFG  $G$ ,  $\exists$  a reduced grammar  $G'$  which is equivalent to  $G$ .

(For proof, follow the two previous theorems in order i.e. thm 1 and then thm 2).

Ex. Let  $G = (V_N, \Sigma, P, S)$  be given by the productions (9)  
 $S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b, B \rightarrow C, E \rightarrow c$ . Find  $G'$  s.t.

every variable in  $G'$  derives some terminal string.

Soln. (a) construction of  $V'_N$ :

$$W_1 = \{A, B, E\}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} W_2 &= W_1 \cup \{A_i \in V_N : A_i \rightarrow \alpha \text{ for some } \alpha \in (\Sigma \cup \{A, B, E\})^*\} \\ &= W_1 \cup \{S\} = \{A, B, E, S\}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} W_3 &= W_2 \cup \{A_i \in V_N : A_i \rightarrow \alpha \text{ for some } \alpha \in (\Sigma \cup \{S, A, B, E\})^*\} \\ &= W_2 \cup \emptyset = W_2. \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore V'_N = \{S, A, B, E\}.$$

(b) construction of  $P'$ :  $P' = \{A_i \rightarrow \alpha : \alpha \in (V'_N \cup \Sigma)^*\}$

$$= \{S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b, E \rightarrow c\}$$

$$\therefore G' = (\{S, A, B, E\}, \{a, b, c\}, P', S).$$

Ex. consider  $G = (\{S, A, B, E\}, \{a, b, c\}, P, S)$ , where  $P$  consists of  
 $S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b, E \rightarrow c$ . construct an equivalent  
grammar  $G' = (V'_N, \Sigma', P', S)$  s.t. every symbol in  $V'_N \cup \Sigma'$   
appears in some sentential form.

Soln.  $W_1 = \{S\}, W_2 = W_1 \cup \{X \in (V_N \cup \Sigma) : \exists A_i \rightarrow \alpha \text{ with } A_i \in W_1$   
 $\text{ & } \alpha \text{ containing } X\}$

$$= \{S\} \cup \{A, B\} = \{S, A, B\}$$

$$W_3 = \{S, A, B\} \cup \{a, b\}, W_4 = W_3$$
  
$$\therefore V'_N = \{S, A, B\}, \Sigma' = \{a, b\}, P' = \{S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow b\}.$$

Ex. Find a reduced grammar equivalent to the grammar  $G$   
whose productions are  $S \rightarrow AB|CA, B \rightarrow BC|AB, A \rightarrow a, C \rightarrow aB|b$ .

Soln. Step 1:  $W_1 = \{A, C\}$  as  $A \rightarrow a$  &  $C \rightarrow b$  are productions with a terminal string in RHS.

$$w_2 = \{A, C\} \cup \{ A_i : A_i \rightarrow \alpha \text{ with } \alpha \in (\Sigma \cup \{A, C\})^* \} \quad (10)$$

$$= \{A, C\} \cup \{S\} = \{S, A, C\}$$

$$w_3 = \{S, A, C\} \cup \{A_i : A_i \rightarrow \alpha \text{ with } \alpha \in (\Sigma \cup \{S, A, C\})^*\}$$

$$= \{S, A, C\} = w_2$$

$$V_N' = w_2 = \{S, A, C\}$$

$$P' = \{A_i \rightarrow \alpha : A_i, \alpha \in (V_N' \cup \Sigma)^*\}$$

$$= \{S \rightarrow CA, A \rightarrow a, C \rightarrow b\}$$

$$\text{thus } G_1 = (\{S, A, C\}, \{a, b\}, \{S \rightarrow CA, A \rightarrow a, C \rightarrow b\}, S)$$

Step 2. we have to apply 2nd thm. Thus,

$$w_1 = \{S\}$$

$$\text{as we have } S \rightarrow CA \text{ & } S \in w_1, \quad w_2 = \{S\} \cup \{A, C\} = \{S, A, C\}$$

$$\text{as } A \rightarrow a, C \rightarrow b \text{ are productions with } A, C \in w_2, \quad w_3 = \{S, A, C, a, b\}$$

$$\text{as } w_3 = V_N' \cup \Sigma, \quad P'' = \{A_i \rightarrow a : A_i \in w_3\} = P'$$

$$\therefore G' = (\{S, A, C\}, \{a, b\}, \{S \rightarrow CA, A \rightarrow a, C \rightarrow b\}, S) \text{ is the reduced grammar.}$$

### Elimination of Null productions.

A CFG may have productions of the form  $A \rightarrow \Lambda$ . This is just used to erase A. So a production of the form  $A \rightarrow \Lambda$ , where A is a variable, is called a null production.

e.g.  $S \rightarrow aS | aA | \Lambda$ ,  $A \rightarrow \Lambda$  has two null productions  $S \rightarrow \Lambda$  and  $A \rightarrow \Lambda$ . we can delete  $A \rightarrow \Lambda$  provided we erase A whenever it occurs in a derivation of a terminal string. so, we can replace  $S \rightarrow aA$  by  $S \rightarrow a$ . If  $G_1$  denotes the grammar with  $S \rightarrow aS | a | \Lambda$  then  $L(G_1) = L(G) = \{a^n | n \geq 0\}$ . Thus it is possible to eliminate the null production  $A \rightarrow \Lambda$ .

Defn. A variable in a CFG is nullable if  $A \xrightarrow{*} \Lambda$ .

Theorem . If  $G = (V_N, \Sigma, P, S)$  is a CFG , then we can find a CFG  $G_1$  having no null productions s.t.  $L(G_1) = L(G) - \{\Lambda\}$ . (II)

Proof . we construct  $G_1 = (V_N, \Sigma, P', S)$  as follows :

Step1: construction of the set of nullable variables.

we find these variables recursively

$$(i) \quad W_1 = \{ A \in V_N : A \rightarrow \Lambda \text{ in } P \}.$$

$$(ii) \quad W_{i+1} = W_i \cup \{ A' \in V_N : \exists A' \rightarrow \alpha \text{ with } \alpha \in W_i^* \}.$$

$\therefore W_i \subseteq W_{i+1} \forall i$ . As  $V_N$  is finite,  $W_{K+1} = W_K$  for some  $K \leq |V_N|$ . So  $W_{K+j} = W_K \forall j$ . Let  $W = W_K$ .  $W$  is the set of nullable variables.

Step2: (i) construction of  $P'$ : Any production whose RHS does not have any nullable variable is included in  $P'$ .

(ii) if  $A \rightarrow x_1 x_2 \dots x_k$  is in  $P$ , the productions of the form  $A \rightarrow \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_k$  are included in  $P'$ , where  $\alpha_i = x_i$  if  $x_i \notin W$ ,  $\alpha_i = \lambda$  or  $\alpha$  if  $x_i \in W$  and  $\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_k \neq \Lambda$ . Actually (ii) gives several productions in  $P'$ . The productions are obtained either by not erasing any nullable variable on the RHS of  $A \rightarrow x_1 x_2 \dots x_k$  or by erasing some or all nullable variables provided some symbol appears on the RHS after erasing.

Now we have to prove that  $L(G_1) = L(G) - \{\Lambda\}$ . we prove an auxiliary result given by the following relation:

for all  $A \in V_N$  and  $w \in \Sigma^*$ ,

$$A \xrightarrow{G_1} w \text{ iff } A \xrightarrow{G} w \text{ and } w \neq \Lambda.$$

we prove the 'if' part first. Let  $A \xrightarrow{G_1} w$  and  $w \neq \Lambda$ . we

prove  $A \xrightarrow{G} w$  by induction on the no. of steps in the derivation  $A \xrightarrow{G_1} w$ . If  $A \xrightarrow{G} w$  &  $w \neq \Lambda$ ,  $A \rightarrow w$  is in  $P'$

so  $A \xrightarrow{G_1} w$ . Assume the result is true for derivations in at most  $i$  steps. Let  $A \xrightarrow{G_1} w$  &  $w \neq \Lambda$ .

(12)

we can split the derivation as

$$A \xrightarrow{G} x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \xrightarrow{G} w_1 w_2 \dots w_k, \text{ where } \omega = w_1 w_2 \dots w_k$$

and  $A_j \xrightarrow{G} w_j$ . As  $\omega \neq \lambda$ , not all  $w_j$ 's are empty  $\lambda$ .  
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 and  $A_j \xrightarrow{G} w_j$ . As  $\omega \neq \lambda$ , not all  $w_j$ 's are empty  $\lambda$ .

then by induction hypothesis  $x_j \xrightarrow{G} w_j$ . If  $w_j = \lambda$ ,  
 then  $x_j \in \Sigma$ . So using the production  $A \rightarrow A_1 A_2 \dots A_k$  in  $P$ ,

we construct  $A \rightarrow \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_k$  in  $P'$ , where  $\alpha_j = x_j$  if  $w_j \neq \lambda$   
 and  $\alpha_j = \lambda$  if  $w_j = \lambda$  (i.e.  $x_j \in \Sigma$ ). Therefore,

$$A \xrightarrow{G} \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_k \xrightarrow{G_1} w_1 w_2 \dots w_k = \omega$$

By PMI, 'if' part is proved.

we prove the 'only if' part by PMI on the no. of steps in  
 the derivation of  $A \xrightarrow{G} \omega$ . If  $A \xrightarrow{G} \omega$  then  $A \rightarrow \omega$  is in  $P'$ .

$\therefore A \rightarrow \omega$  is obtained from some production  $A \xrightarrow{G} x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \xrightarrow{G} \omega$ .

So, there is a basis for PMI. Assume the result for  
 derivation in at most  $j$  steps. Let  $A \xrightarrow{G} \omega$ . This can be

split as  $A \xrightarrow{G} x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \xrightarrow{G_1} w_1 w_2 \dots w_k$ , where  
 $x_i \xrightarrow{G} w_i$ .  $A \xrightarrow{G} x_1 x_2 \dots x_k$  in  $P'$  is obtained from some

production  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  in  $P$  by erasing some (or none of the)  
 nullable variables in  $\alpha$ . So  $A \xrightarrow{G} \alpha \xrightarrow{G} x_1 x_2 \dots x_k$ . If

$x_i \in \Sigma$  then  $x_i \xrightarrow{G} x_i = w_i$ . If  $x_i \in V_N$  then by induction

hypothesis,  $x_i \xrightarrow{G} w_i$ . So  $A \xrightarrow{G} x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \xrightarrow{G} w_1 w_2 \dots w_k$ .

Hence by PMI, result follows.

Hence by PMI, we have  $\omega \in L(G_1)$  iff  
 By applying this result (i.e. (iii)), we have  $\omega \in L(G_1) \iff$

$\omega \in L(G)$  and  $\omega \neq \lambda$ . Hence,  $L(G_1) = L(G) - \{\lambda\}$ .

Ex. consider the grammar  $G$  whose productions are  
 $S \rightarrow aS \mid AB$ ,  $A \rightarrow \Lambda$ ,  $B \rightarrow \Lambda$ ,  $D \rightarrow b$ . construct a grammar  
 $G_1$  without null productions generating  $L(G) - \Lambda$ .

Soln. Step1:  $\omega_1 = \{ A_1 \in V_N : A_1 \rightarrow \Lambda \text{ is in } G \}$   
 $= \{ A, B \}$

$$\omega_2 = \omega_1 \cup \{ A_1 \in V_N : A_1 \rightarrow \alpha \text{ with } \alpha \in \omega_1^* \} \\ = \{ A, B \} \cup \{ S \} = \{ S, A, B \}$$

$$\omega_3 = \omega_2 \cup \emptyset = \omega_2.$$

$$\therefore \omega = \{ S, A, B \}.$$

Step2:  $D \rightarrow b$ ,  ~~$S \rightarrow aS$~~

- (i)  $D \rightarrow b$  is included in  $P'$ .
  - (ii)  $S \rightarrow aS$  gives rise to  $S \rightarrow a$  and  $S \rightarrow \Lambda$ .
  - (iii)  $S \rightarrow AB$  gives rise to  $S \rightarrow AB$ ,  $S \rightarrow A$  and  $S \rightarrow B$ .
- (we can not erase both  $A, B$  in  $S \rightarrow AB$  as we will get  $S \rightarrow \Lambda$ ).

$$\text{Hence } G_1 = (\{ S, A, B \}, \{ a, b \}, P', S)$$

### Elimination of Unit Productions.

consider, e.g.  $G$  as  $S \rightarrow A$ ,  $A \rightarrow B$ ,  $B \rightarrow C$ ,  $C \rightarrow a$ . Then  $L(G) = \{ a \}$ .  
The productions  $S \rightarrow A$ ,  $A \rightarrow B$ ,  $B \rightarrow C$  are useful just to replace  $S$  by  $C$ .  
To get terminal string, we need  $C \rightarrow a$ . If  $G_1$  is  $S \rightarrow a$ , then  
 $L(G_1) = L(G)$ .

Defn. A unit production in CFG  $G$  is a production of the form  
 $A \rightarrow B$ , where  $A, B \in V_N$ .

Theorem. If  $G$  is a CFG, we can find a CFG  $G'$  which has no  
null productions or unit productions s.t.  $L(G') = L(G)$ .

Pf. For null productions, we have already done i.e. we find  $G'$  s.t.  
 $L(G') = L(G)$

Let  $A \in V_N$ .

Step1. construction of the set of variables from  $A$ :

Define  $\omega_i(A)$  as follows:

$$W_0(A) = \{A\} \quad (14)$$

$W_{i+1}(A) = W_i(A) \cup \{B \in V_N : C \rightarrow B \text{ is in } P \text{ with } C \in W_i(A)\}$

By defn.  $W_i(A) \subseteq W_{i+1}(A)$ . As  $V_N$  is finite,  $W_{k+1}(A) = W_k(A)$  for some  $k \leq |V_N|$ . So  $W_{k+j}(A) = W_k(A) \forall j \geq 0$ .

Let  $W(A) = W_k(A)$ . Then  $W(A)$  is the set of variables derivable from  $A$ .

Step 2. construction of  $A$ -productions in  $G_1$ :

The  $A$ -productions in  $G_1$  are either (i) the nonunit production in  $G_1$  or (ii)  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  whenever  $B \rightarrow \alpha$  is in  $G$  with  $B \in W(A)$  and  $\alpha \notin V_N$ .

Define  $G_1 = (V_N, \Sigma, P_1, S)$ , where  $P_1$  is constructed using Step 2  $\forall A \in V_N$ .

(we have given only construction). Proof of  $L(G_1) = L(G)$  can be seen from the book.

Corollary. If  $G$  is a CFG, we can construct an equivalent grammar  $G'$  which is reduced and has no null productions or unit productions.

Pf. Eliminate null productions to get  $G_1$ . Then eliminate unit productions in  $G_1$  to get  $G_2$ . Construct a reduced grammar  $G'$  equivalent to  $G_2$ .  $G'$  is the required grammar.

(do not change the order of construction).

Normal Forms For CFG. In CFG, the RHS of a production can be any string of variables and terminals. When the productions in  $G$  satisfy certain restrictions, then  $G$  is said to be in a 'normal form'. Among several normal forms, main normal forms are 'Chomsky normal form' (CNF) and 'Greibach normal form' (GNF).

Defn. (CNF): A CFG is in CNF if every production is of the form  $A \rightarrow a$  or  $A \rightarrow BC$ , and  $S \rightarrow \Lambda$  is in  $G$  if  $\Lambda \in L(G)$ . When  $\Lambda \in L(G)$ , we assume that  $S$  does not appear on the RHS of any production.

Ex. Let  $G$  be  $S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, B \rightarrow C/b, C \rightarrow D, D \rightarrow E$  and  $E \rightarrow a$ . Eliminate unit productions.

Soln. Step 1.  $\omega_0(S) = \{S\}, \omega_1(S) = \omega_0(S) \cup \emptyset$

$\therefore \omega(S) = \{S\}$ . Similarly  $\omega(A) = A, \omega(E) = E$ .

$\omega_0(B) = \{B\}, \omega_1(B) = \{B\} \cup \{C\} = \{B, C\}$

$\omega_2(B) = \{B, C\} \cup \{D\}, \omega_3(B) = \{B, C, D, E\} = \omega_4(B)$

$\therefore \omega(B) = \{B, C, D, E\}$ .

$\omega_0(C) = \{C\}, \omega_1(C) = \{C, D\}, \omega_2(C) = \{C, D, E\} = \omega_3(C)$

$\therefore \omega(C) = \{C, D, E\}$

$\omega_0(D) = \{D\}, \omega_1(D) = \{D, E\} = \omega_2(D)$

$\therefore \omega(D) = \{D, E\}$

Step 2. The productions in  $G_1$  are

$S \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow a, E \rightarrow a$

$B \rightarrow b/a, C \rightarrow a, D \rightarrow a$ .