



Theory of Computation

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Pushdown Automata

Definition of a PDA

A pushdown automaton is $(Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F)$ where:

- Q is a finite set of **states**;
- Σ is the **input alphabet**;
- Γ is the **stack alphabet**;
- q_0 in Q is the **initial state**;
- $F \subseteq Q$ is a set of final states;
- δ is the **transition function**

z_0
↓
initial stack
symbol

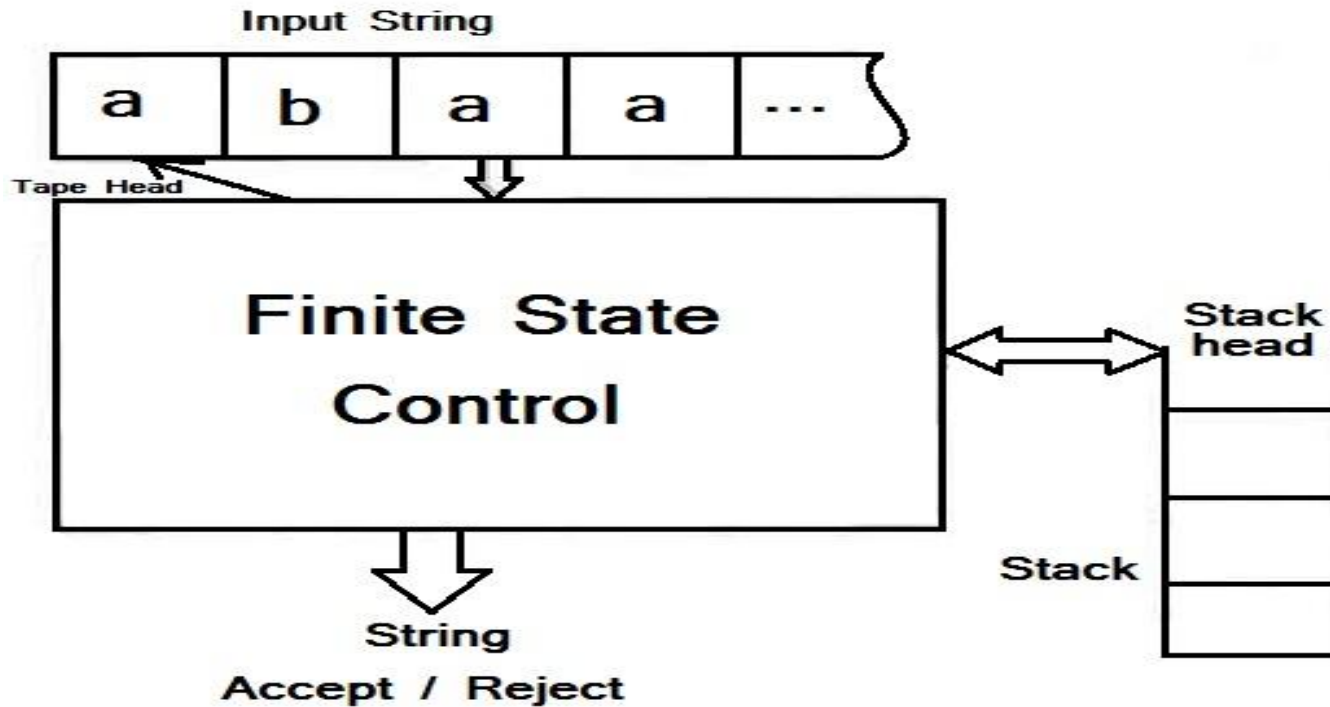
$\delta: Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}) \times (\Gamma \cup \{\epsilon\}) \rightarrow Q \times (\Gamma \cup \{\epsilon\})$

state input symbol pop symbol

state push symbol

Model of pushdown automata

$a^n b^n \mid n \geq 1$



Example 1: Construct a PDA that accepts $L = \{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 1\}$

Transition function

Solⁿ

$$1) \delta(q_0, a, z_0) = \{(q_0, az_0)\}$$

$$2) \delta(q_0, a, a) = \{(q_0, aa)\}$$

$$3) \delta(q_0, b, a) = \{(q_1, \wedge)\}$$

$$4) \delta(q_1, b, a) = \{(q_1, \wedge)\}$$

$$5) \delta(q_1, \wedge, z) = \{(q_f, \wedge)\} \text{ or } \{(q_f, z_0)\}$$

$n=4$



$aabba$

$$(q_0, aabbbb, z_0) \vdash (q_0, aabbbb, az_0) \vdash (q_0, abbbb, aaz_0) \vdash$$

$$(q_0, bbbb, aaz_0) \vdash (q_1, \cancel{b}, \cancel{a}az_0) \vdash (q_1, b, aaz_0) \vdash$$

$$(q_1, \wedge, z_0) \vdash (q_f, \wedge)$$

Example 2: Construct a PDA that accepts $L = \{ wcw^R \mid w = (a+b)^* \}$

Solⁿ: δ :

Transition function:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(q_0, a, z_0) &= \{(q_0, az_0)\} \\ \delta(q_0, a, a) &= \{(q_0, a)\} \\ \delta(q_0, b, z_0) &= \{(q_0, bz_0)\} \\ \delta(q_0, b, b) &= \{(q_0, bb)\} \\ \delta(q_0, a, b) &= \{(q_0, ab)\} \\ \delta(q_0, b, a) &= \{(q_0, ba)\} \\ \delta(q_0, c, a) &= \{(q_1, a)\} \\ \delta(q_0, c, b) &= \{(q_1, b)\} \\ \delta(q_0, c, z_0) &= \{(q_1, z_0)\} \\ \delta(q_1, a, a) &= \{(q_1, \wedge)\} \\ \delta(q_1, b, b) &= \{(q_1, \wedge)\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(q_1, \wedge, z_0) &= \{(q_f, \wedge)\} \\ Q &= \{q_0, q_1, q_f\} \\ \Sigma &= \{a, b, c\} \\ \Gamma &= \{a, b\} \\ q_0 &= \{q_0\} \\ p &= \{q_f\} \\ \delta &: \\ z_0 &= \{z_0\} \end{aligned}$$

Example 3: Construct a pda A accepting the set of all strings over $\{a, b\}$ with equal number of a 's and b 's.

δ :

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(q_0, a, z_0) &= \{(q_0, a z_0)\} \\ \delta(q_0, a, a) &= \{(q_0, a a)\} \\ \delta(q_0, b, z_0) &= \{(q_0, b z_0)\} \\ \delta(q_0, b, b) &= \{(q_0, b b)\} \\ \delta(q_0, a, b) &= \{(q_0, \wedge)\} \\ \delta(q_0, b, a) &= \{(q_0, \wedge)\} \\ \delta(q_0, \wedge, z_0) &= \underbrace{\{(q_f, \wedge)\}}_{\text{OR}} \\ &\quad \underbrace{\{(q_f, z_0)\}}\end{aligned}$$

Example 4: Construct a PDA that accepts $L = \{a^n b^{2n} \mid n \geq 1\}$

~~Sol^y~~ δ :

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(q_0, a, z_0) &= \{(q_0, az_0)\} \\ \delta(q_0, a, a) &= \{(q_0, aa)\} \\ \delta(q_0, b, a) &= \{(q_1, a)\} \\ \delta(q_1, b, a) &= \{(q_2, a)\} \\ \delta(q_2, \underline{b}, a) &= \{(q_1, a)\} \\ \delta(q_2, a, z_0) &= \{(q_f, z_0)\}\end{aligned}$$