

1. Consider the grammar  $G=(V, \Sigma, R, S)$ , where

$$V = \{a, b, S, A\},$$

$$\Sigma = \{a, b\},$$

$$R = \{S \rightarrow AA, \\ A \rightarrow AAA, . \\ A \rightarrow a, \\ A \rightarrow bA, \\ A \rightarrow Ab\}.$$

Write all the strings of  $L(G)$  whose length is at most 4.

2. Consider the context free grammar  $G=(V, \Sigma, R, S)$ , where

$$V = \{a, b, S, A, B\},$$

$$\Sigma = \{a, b\},$$

$$R = \{S \rightarrow aB, \\ S \rightarrow bA, \\ A \rightarrow a, \\ A \rightarrow aS, \\ A \rightarrow BAA, \\ B \rightarrow b, \\ B \rightarrow bS, \\ B \rightarrow ABB\}.$$

Show that  $ababba \in L(G)$ .

$$S \Rightarrow aB \Rightarrow | \Rightarrow abaB \Rightarrow ababS \Rightarrow ababbA \Rightarrow ababba$$

3. Construct context-free grammars that generate each of these language

a).  $\{ ww^R : w \in \{a, b\}^i \}$

b).  $\{ w \in \{a, b\}^i : w = w^R \}$

A:  $a^i. \{ ww^R : w \in \{a, b\}^i \}$

$$S \rightarrow aSa$$

$$S \rightarrow bSb$$

$$S \rightarrow e$$

b).  $\{ w \in \{a, b\}^i : w = w^R \}$

$$S \rightarrow aSa$$

$$S \rightarrow bSb$$

$$S \rightarrow a$$

$S \rightarrow b$

$S \rightarrow e$

4.

Let  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$ , where  $V = \{a, b, S\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ , and  $R = \{S \rightarrow aSb, S \rightarrow aSa, S \rightarrow bSa, S \rightarrow bSb, S \rightarrow e\}$ . Show that  $L(G)$  is regular.

A: We first prove that  $L(G) = M = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* : |w| \text{ is even}\}$ .

To show  $L(G) = M$ , we show  $L(G) \subseteq M$  and  $M \subseteq L(G)$ .

Step 1. We show that  $M \subseteq L(G)$ .

Proof by induction on the string length:

Base case: Obviously  $e \in L(G)$ .

Induction hypothesis: Suppose any string of length  $2k$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , is contained in  $L(G)$ .

Consider  $w \in \{a, b\}^*$ ,  $|w| = 2k + 2$ .

Depending on the first and last symbols, there are three possibilities:  $w = aua$ ,  $w = bub$  or  $aub$ , where  $|u| = 2k$ . According to the induction hypothesis, we have  $S \Rightarrow^i u$

i) If  $w = aua$ , then  $S \Rightarrow aSa \Rightarrow^i aua = w$

ii) If  $w = bub$ , then  $S \Rightarrow bSb \Rightarrow^i bub = w$

iii) If  $w = aub$ , then  $S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aub = w$

Therefore,  $w \in L(G)$ . Hence,  $M \subseteq L(G)$

Step 2. We show that  $L(G) \subseteq M$ .

Proof by induction on the derivation length (i.e., number of  $\Rightarrow$ 's in the derivation):

Base case: If the derivation length is 1, then the only string that can be derived is  $S \Rightarrow e$ .  $|e| = 0$ , which is even.

Induction hypothesis: Suppose any derivation with length at most  $k$  generates a string of even length, we consider a derivation with length  $k + 1$ . Consider the first derivation. It can be  $S \Rightarrow aSa$ ,  $S \Rightarrow bSb$ ,  $S \Rightarrow aSb$ ,  $S \Rightarrow bSb$ . According to the hypothesis, with at most  $k$  derivations we always have  $S \Rightarrow u$  for some  $u$  of even length. Hence if the first derivation is  $aSa$ ,  $bSb$ ,  $aSb$ ,  $bSa$ , then with additional  $k$  more derivations we get  $aua$ ,  $bub$ ,  $aub$ ,  $bua$ , respectively, whose length is even in all cases. Thus,  $L(G) \subseteq M$ .

Step 3. We have proved so far that  $L(G) = M$ . Since  $M = ((a+b)(a+b))^*$ ,

$L(G)$  is regular.

5. Show that the following languages are context-free by exhibiting contextfree grammars generating each:

- i)  $\{a^n b^m c^{m+n} : n, m \geq 0\}$
- ii)  $\{a^m b^n c^p d^q : m+n = p+q\}$
- iii)  $\{uawb : u, w \in \{a, b\}^*, |u| = |w| \vee |u| = |w| + 1\}$
- A: i)  $\{a^n b^m c^{m+n} : n, m \geq 0\}$

The language  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  where  $V = \{a, b, c, A, B, S\}$ , terminals  $\Sigma = \{a, b, c\}$ , and rules  $R = \{S \rightarrow A, A \rightarrow aAc, A \rightarrow B, A \rightarrow e, B \rightarrow bBc, B \rightarrow e\}$ .

- ii)  $\{a^m b^n c^p d^q : m+n = p+q\}$

The language  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  where  $V = \{a, b, c, d, A, B, S\}$ , terminals  $\Sigma = \{a, b, c, d\}$ , and rules

$$\{S \rightarrow S_1 \vee S_2$$

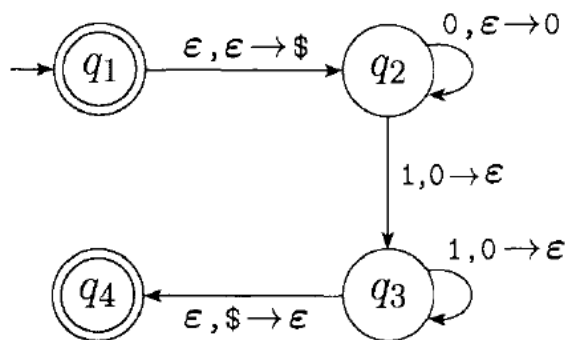
$$S_1 \rightarrow a S_1 d \mid A_1, A_1 \rightarrow b A_1 d \mid B_1, B_1 \rightarrow b B_1 c \vee e$$

$$S_2 \rightarrow a S_2 d \mid A_2, A_2 \rightarrow a A_2 c \mid B_2, B_2 \rightarrow b B_2 c \vee e\}$$

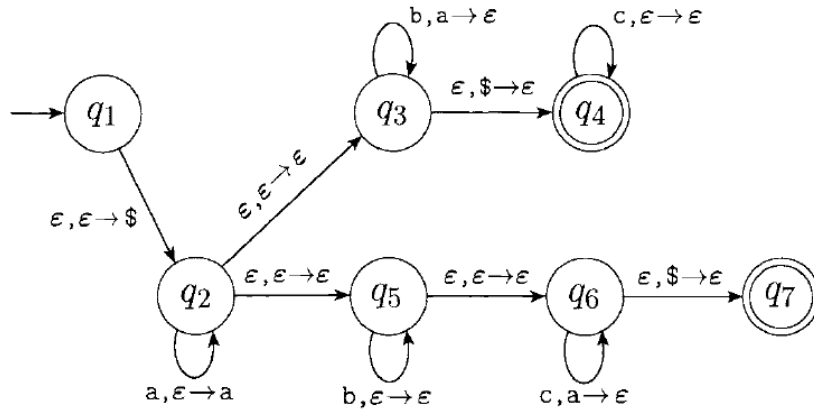
- iii)  $\{uawb : u, w \in \{a, b\}^*, |u| = |w| \vee |u| = |w| + 1\}$

The language  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  where  $V = \{a, b, T, S\}$ , terminals  $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ , and rules  $R = \{S \rightarrow Tb, T \rightarrow aTa, T \rightarrow bTb, T \rightarrow aTb, T \rightarrow bTa, T \rightarrow a\}$ .

6. What does the following PDA's accept?



A:  $\{0^n 1^n : n \geq 0\}$



A:  $\{a^i b^j c^k : i=j \vee i=k\}$

(Additional question: can you modify the PDA for  $\{a^i b^j c^{i+j} : i, j \geq 0\}$ ?)

7. (\*) What does the following PDA accept?

$$K = [q], \Sigma = [0, 1], \Gamma = [a, b, 0, 1], F = [q],$$

$$\Delta = \{((q, 0, e), (q, a)),$$

$$((q, 1, e), (q, 1))$$

$$((q, 0, 1), (q, 0))$$

$$((q, 1, a), (q, 0))$$

$$((q, 1, 0), (q, e))$$

$$((q, 1, 1), (q, b))$$

$$((q, 0, b), (q, e))\}$$

8. Use Pumping theorem to show the followings are not context-free:

a).  $\{a^n b^n c^n : n \geq 0\}$

b).  $\{a^p : p \text{ is prime}\}$

c).  $\{a^{n^2} : n \geq 0\}$

d).  $\{a^n b^n a^n b^n : n \geq 0\}$

e).  $\{ww : w \in [a, b]^i\}$

A:

a). Suppose on the contrary that  $L = \{a^n b^n c^n : n \geq 0\}$  is CFG, then

there exists some sufficiently large number  $N$ , for any  $n \geq N$ , we have  $a^n b^n c^n = uvxyz$  such that  $|vy| > 0$ ,  $|vxy| \leq N$ , and  $uv^i x y^i z \in L$  for any  $i \geq 0$ .

Pick  $n = N$  and consider  $a^N b^N c^N = uvxyz$ .  $|vxy| \leq N$ , so there are 5 different possibilities.

i).  $vxy = a \dots a, \forall b \dots b, \forall c \dots c$ , i.e., it only consists one symbol

We show the case of  $vxy = a \dots a$ , the other two cases are the same.

Since  $|vy| > 0$ , we know  $v^2 x y^2$  contains exactly  $|vy|$  more a's than  $vxy$ . That is,  $uv^2 x y^2 z$  will contain  $N + |vy| > N$  copies of a, i.e.,

$uv^2 x y^2 z = a^{N+|vy|} b^N c^N \notin L$ , contradicting that  $uv^i x y^i z \in L$  for any  $i \geq 0$ .

ii).  $vxy = a \dots ab \dots b$  or  $vxy = b \dots bc \dots c$ , i.e.,  $vxy$  contains both  $a, b$  or  $b, c$

. We show that case of  $vxy = a \dots ab \dots b$ , the other case is the same.

Since  $|vy| > 0$ , we assume  $vy = a^\alpha b^\beta$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$  and  $\alpha + \beta > 0$ . Now we have  $uv^2 x y^2 z = a^{N+\alpha} b^{N+\beta} c^N \notin L$ , contradicting that  $uv^i x y^i z \in L$  for any  $i \geq 0$

Note that since  $|vxy| \leq N$ , it is impossible for  $vxy$  to contain all  $a, b, c$ . Thus we have exhausted all the possibilities.

b). Proof essentially the same as that in slide for non-regularity

c) Suppose on the contrary that  $L = \{a^{n^2} : n \geq 0\}$  is CFG, then there

exists some sufficiently large number  $N$ , for any  $n \geq N$ , we have  $a^{n^2} = uvxyz$  such that  $|vy| > 0$ ,  $|vxy| \leq N$ , and  $uv^i x y^i z \in L$  for any  $i \geq 0$ .

Pick  $n = N$  and consider  $a^{N^2} = uvxyz$ . Let  $vxy = a^\beta$  for some  $1 \leq \beta \leq N$ .

Then  $uv^2 x y^2 z = a^{N^2+\beta} \in L$ . Hence, there exists some integer  $N_1$  such

that  $N^2 + \beta = N_1^2$ . Obviously  $N_1 > N$ , i.e.,  $N_1 \geq N+1$ . However,

$N_1^2 \geq (N+1)^2 > N^2 + N$ , implying that  $\beta > N$ , contradicting that  $\beta \leq N$ .

Hence,  $L$  is not CFG.

d). Suppose on the contrary that  $L = \{a^n b^n a^n b^n : n \geq 0\}$  is CFG, then

there exists some sufficiently large number  $N$ , for any  $n \geq N$ , we

have  $a^n b^n a^n b^n = uvxyz$  such that  $|vy| > 0$ ,  $|vxy| \leq N$ , and  $uv^i xy^i z \in L$  for any  $i \geq 0$ .

Pick  $n = N$  and consider  $a^N b^N a^N b^N = uvxyz$ .  $|vxy| \leq N$ . We divide  $a^N b^N a^N b^N$  into 4 substrings of equal length, and let them be

$w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4$  where  $w_1 = w_3 = a^N$ ,  $w_2 = w_4 = b^N$ . There are 3 different

possibilities.

i).  $vxy$  is a substring of  $w_1$  or  $w_2$  or  $w_3$  or  $w_4$ .

We show the case that  $vxy$  is a substring of  $w_1$ , the other 3 cases are the same. Since  $|vy| > 0$ , we know  $v^2 xy^2$  contains exactly  $|vy|$  more a's than  $vxy$ . That is,  $uv^2 xy^2 z$  will contain  $N + |vy| > N$  copies of a, i.e.,  $uv^2 xy^2 z = a^{N+|vy|} b^N a^N b^N \notin L$ , contradicting that  $uv^i xy^i z \in L$  for any

$i \geq 0$ .

ii).  $vxy = a \dots ab \dots b$ , and is a substring of  $w_1 w_2$  or  $w_3 w_4$ . We show the case that  $vxy$  is a substring of  $w_1 w_2$ , the other case is the same.

Since  $|vy| > 0$ , we assume  $vy = a^\alpha b^\beta$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$  and  $\alpha + \beta > 0$ . Now we have  $uv^2 xy^2 z = a^{N+\alpha} b^{N+\beta} a^N b^N \notin L$ , contradicting that  $uv^i xy^i z \in L$  for any  $i \geq 0$ .

iii).  $vxy = b \dots ba \dots a$ , and is a substring of  $w_2 w_3$ . Since  $|vy| > 0$ , we assume  $vy = b^\beta a^\alpha$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$  and  $\alpha + \beta > 0$ . Now we have  $uv^2 xy^2 z = a^N b^{N+\beta} a^{N+\alpha} b^N \notin L$ , contradicting that  $uv^i xy^i z \in L$  for any  $i \geq 0$ .

e) Apply pumping theorem on  $a^n b^n a^n b^n$ , show that the resulted string cannot be expressed as  $ww$

9. Determine whether the following statement is correct or wrong, and state your reason.

a). Language  $\{a^{6n} b^{3m} c^{p+10} : n \geq 0, m \geq 0, p \geq 0\}$  is regular.

True

b). Let  $L_1, L_2 \dots L_i \dots$  be regular languages, then  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} L_i$  is also regular.

False, consider  $L_i = \{a^i b^i\}$ .

c).  $A$  and  $B$  are two context-free languages, so is  $A \oplus B$ , where

$$A \oplus B = (A - B) \cup (B - A).$$

False, consider  $B \subseteq A = \{a, b\}^*$ , then it is essentially the complement of  $B$ , which is not necessarily CFG.

Q: what if I replace context-free with regular?

d). Language  $\{a^m b^n c^l : m, n, l \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, m+n > 3l\}$  is context free.

True.

e). Language  $\{a^m (bc)^n : m, n \geq 0\}$  is not regular.

False. It is the same as  $a^*(bc)^*$

f). Language  $\{a^n b^m : m \equiv n \pmod{2}\}$  is regular

True. It is the same as  $((aa)^*(bb)^*) \cup \{a(aa)^*b(bb)^*\}$

g). The concatenation of a regular language and non-regular language is non-regular.

False.  $a^*b^*$  concatenate with  $\{a^m b^n : m \leq n\}$  is  $a^*b^*$

10.

(a) Give a context-free grammar for the language

$$L_3 = \{xy \mid x, y \in \{a, b\}^*, |x| = |y| \text{ and } x \text{ and } y^R \text{ differ in one positions}\}.$$

For example,  $abbbbaba, abbbbbbb \in L_3$ , but  $aababb \notin L_3$ .

(b) Design a PDA  $M = (K, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, s, F)$  accepting the language  $L_3$ .

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**Solution:** (a) We can construct the context-free grammar  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  for language  $L_3$ , where

$V = \{a, b, S, A, B\}; \Sigma = \{a, b\}$ ; and

$$R = \{S \rightarrow aSa, S \rightarrow bSb, S \rightarrow aAb, A \rightarrow aAa, A \rightarrow bAb, A \rightarrow e, \\ S \rightarrow bBa, B \rightarrow aBa, B \rightarrow bBb, B \rightarrow e\}$$

(b) The PDA  $M = (K, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, s, F)$  is defined below:

$K = \{p, q\}$ $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ $\Gamma = \{a, b, S, A, B\}$ $s = \underline{p}$ $F = \{q\}$	$(q, \sigma, \beta)$	$(p, \gamma)$
	$(p, e, e)$	$(q, S)$
	$(q, e, S)$	$(q, aSa)$
	$(q, e, S)$	$(q, bSb)$
	$(q, e, S)$	$(q, aAb)$
	$(q, e, A)$	$(q, aAa)$
	$(q, e, A)$	$(q, bAb)$
	$(q, e, A)$	$(q, e)$
	$(q, e, S)$	$(q, bBa)$
	$(q, e, B)$	$(q, aBa)$
	$(q, e, B)$	$(q, bBb)$
	$(q, e, B)$	$(q, e)$
	$(q, a, a)$	$(q, e)$
	$(q, b, b)$	$(q, e)$

11.

Give a context-free grammar for language:

$$L_1 = \{a^m b^n c w w^R \mid m, n \in \mathbb{N}, n \leq m \leq 2n, w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$$

A:

$$G = (V, \Sigma, R, S) \\ V = \{a, b, S, S_1, S_2\} \\ \Sigma = \{a, b\} \\ R = \{ \\ S \rightarrow S_1 c S_2, \\ S_1 \rightarrow a S_1 b, \\ S_1 \rightarrow a a S_1 b, \\ S_1 \rightarrow e, \\ S_2 \rightarrow a S_2 a, \\ S_2 \rightarrow b S_2 b, \\ S_2 \rightarrow e \\ \}$$



**12.**

(20%) Let  $\Sigma = \{a, b, c\}$ . Let  $L_3 = \{w \mid w \in \{a, b, c\}^*, \#_b(w) = \#_c(w)\}$ . Where  $\#_z(w)$  is the number of appearances of the character  $z$  in  $w$ . For example, the string  $x = baccabcbcb \in L_3$ , since  $\#_b(x) = \#_c(x) = 4$ . Similarly, the string  $x = abcaba \notin L_3$ , since  $\#_b(x) = 2$  and  $\#_c(x) = 1$ .

- (a) Construct a context-free grammar that generates the language  $L_3$ .
- (b) Construct a pushdown automata that accepts  $L_3$ .

**A:**

$$R = \{S \rightarrow bSc \mid cSb \mid SS \mid AS \mid e, A \rightarrow aA \mid e\}.$$