

Software Specifications
Context Free Grammar Pumping Lemma
Examples

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Example

where

$$(P1) \quad v \neq \varepsilon \text{ or } x \neq \varepsilon$$

$$(P2) \quad |vwx| \leq p$$

$$(P3) \quad \text{for each } i \geq 0 : uv^iwx^iy \in L$$

Consider the Language of Squares:

$$L_2 = \{ww \mid w \in \{a,b\}^*\}.$$

The claim is that L_2 is not context free.

Note: showing that L_2 is not CF, roughly speaking, shows that variable declarations cannot be specified with CF Grammars.

attempt 1 The Question is what string s should we use to derive a contradiction with the Pumping Lemma? The first (bad) idea for s is the following:

$$s = a^pba^pb \in L_2.$$

$$s = a^{p-1}aba^{p-1}b.$$

Where:

$$u = a^{p-1}$$

$$v = a$$

$$w = b$$

$$x = a$$

$$y = a^{p-1}b$$

Let p be the constant yielded from the pumping lemma. Additionally as given by the pumping lemma, $s = uvwxy$ for all context free languages. However, there is **no contradiction** with s as v and x can be repeated in parallel.

attempt 2 We have to show that **any** way of writing a string in 5 parts, as per the pumping lemma, does *not* satisfy the pumping lemma in order to show that a language is context free. We need to also make sure that the middle part of the string (vw) with length at most p .

Thus, we will try a better idea for s :

$$s = a^p b^p a^p b^p.$$

Thus, we will start our proof:

For the sake of contradiction assume that L_2 is context free and let p be the constant given by the pumping lemma.

$$s = a^p b^p a^p b^p.$$

by the pumping lemma, s can be written in 5 parts:

$$s = uvwxy$$

where u, v, w, x, y satisfy the 3 properties of the pumping lemma.

we shall divide s into 3 parts such that:

$$I = a^p b^p$$

$$II = a^p b^p$$

$$III = b^p a^p$$



Since $|vw| \leq p$, the substring vw must be within one of the parts I, II, III .

part I vw is inside the prefix $a^p b^p$ in the string uv^2wx^2y . The first symbol of the second half of the prefix is b and the first symbol of the first half is an a . Therefore, uv^2wx^2y is not in L_2

part II Similarly, if vw is inside the suffix $a^p b^p$ in the string uv^2wx^2y then the last symbol of the first half is a and the last symbol of the second half is b . Again, $uv^2wx^2y \notin L_2$

part III The last case is that vxy is in the middle part. Now, $uv^0wx^0y = uwy$ is of the form $a^p b^i a^j b^p$ where $i \neq p$ or $j \neq p$. Again, $uv^0wx^0y \notin L_2$, which produces a **contradiction**, and thus, L_2 is *not* context free.