

5. NECESSARY_{CFG} is a CFG where A is a variable that is necessary

Show that NECESSARY_{CFG} is recognizable:

Proof by Construction:

TM D on input G,A where G is a CFG and A is necessary

1. create grammar X where $x = G/A$

for $i=1,2,3,\dots$

 generate every string of length i from G

 If any string from set $\notin X$, accept

 else, loop

Since all we need to do is find a string that is in G but not in X we just keep iterating until we eventually find a string that is not in X but is in G and accept, or we keep looping. Therefore NECESSARY_{CFG} is recognizable.

Prove that NECESSARY_{CFG} is not decidable:

Intuition: This can't be decidable because we can never really know if something is necessary because what if it isn't in the next string?

Using Rice's theorem

NECESSARY_{CFG} is a language of TM descriptions. It satisfies the two conditions of Rice's Theorem. One, it is non-trivial, as some TMs will have a necessary component A, while others will not. Two, it depends only on the language. If two TM's were to recognize the same language, they would both have descriptions in NECESSARY_{CFG} or neither would. Therefore, by Rice's theorem, we know NECESSARY_{CFG} is un-decidable.