

Examples of CFL

Example 1. $L = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ is a CFL.

To show that L is a CFL, we need to construct a CFG G generating L .

Let $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$ where

$$V = \{S\}$$

$$\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$$

$$R = \{S \rightarrow \epsilon \mid 0S1\}$$

Example 2. Construct CFG to generate
 $L = \{xx^R \mid x \text{ is in } (0+1)^*\}$.

$G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$ where

$V = \{S\}$

$\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$

$R = \{ S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid 0S0 \mid 1S1 \}$

Example 3 $L = \{ x \in (0+1)^* \mid \#_0(x) = \#_1(x) \}$

Idea: what relations exist between longer strings and shorter strings in this language?

Consider four cases:

Case 1. $x = 0w1$. Then x is in L iff w is in L .

If we use S to represent a string in L , then the relation in Case 1 can be represented

As a rule

$$S \rightarrow 0S1$$

Case 2. $x=1w0$. Similar to case 1. This case gives rule

$$S \rightarrow 1S0$$

Case 3. $x=0w0$. Suppose $w = w_1w_2\cdots w_n$.

Consider the following sequence:

$$\#_0(0) - \#_1(0) > 0,$$

$$\#_0(0w_1) - \#_1(0w_1),$$

$\dots,$

$$\#_0(0w_1\cdots w_n) - \#_1(0w_1\cdots w_n) < 0.$$

Note that in this sequence, two adjacent numbers have difference 1. Therefore, there exists i such that

$$\#_0(0w_1\cdots w_i) - \#_1(0w_1\cdots w_i) = 0$$

This means that x is the concatenation of two shorter strings in L . So, we have a rule

$$S \rightarrow SS$$

Case 4. $x=1w1$. Similar to Case 3.

Based on the above analysis, we have CFG

$G=(V, \Sigma, R, S)$ where

$V = \{S\}$

$\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$

$R = \{S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0 \mid SS\}$

Each nonterminal symbol represents a language.

Each rule represents a relationship between languages represented by nonterminal symbols.

CFL is closed under union.

Proof. Suppose $A = L(G_A)$ and $B = L(G_B)$ where

$$G_A = (V_A, \Sigma_A, R_A, S_A)$$

$$G_B = (V_B, \Sigma_B, R_B, S_B)$$

Without loss of generality, assume $V_A \cap V_B = \emptyset$.

(Otherwise, we may change some nonterminal symbols.)

Then $A \cup B = L(G)$ for $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$ where

$$V = V_A \cup V_B \cup \{S\}$$

$$\Sigma = \Sigma_A \cup \Sigma_B$$

$$R = R_A \cup R_B \cup \{S \rightarrow S_A \mid S_B\}$$

Example 4 $L = \{ 0^m 1^n \mid m \neq n, m, n \geq 0 \}$

$$L = \{0^m 1^n \mid m > n \geq 0\} \cup \{0^m 1^n \mid n > m \geq 0\}$$

Hence, $L = L(G)$ for $G = (\{S, S_A, S_B\}, \{0,1\}, R, S)$
where

$$R = \{S \rightarrow S_A \mid S_B, \\ S_A \rightarrow 0 \mid 0S_A \mid 0S_A 1, \\ S_B \rightarrow 1 \mid S_B 1 \mid 0S_B 1\}$$

CFL is closed under concatenation.

Proof. Suppose $A = L(G_A)$ and $B = L(G_B)$ where

$$G_A = (V_A, \Sigma_A, R_A, S_A)$$

$$G_B = (V_B, \Sigma_B, R_B, S_B)$$

Without loss of generality, assume $V_A \cap V_B = \emptyset$.

(Otherwise, we may change some nonterminal symbols.)

Then $AB = L(G)$ for $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$ where

$$V = V_A \cup V_B \cup \{S\}$$

$$\Sigma = \Sigma_A \cup \Sigma_B$$

$$R = R_A \cup R_B \cup \{S \rightarrow S_A S_B\}$$

Example 5 $L = \{xx^R w \mid x \in (0+1)^+, w \in (0+1)^*\}$

$$L = \{xx^R \mid x \in (0+1)^+\} \{0,1\}^*$$

$L=L(G)$ for $G = (\{S, S_A, S_B\}, \{0, 1\}, R, S)$

where

$$R = \{ S \rightarrow S_A S_B, \\ S_A \rightarrow 00 \mid 11 \mid 0S_A 0 \mid 1S_A 1, \\ S_B \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid 0S_B \mid 1S_B \}$$

CFL is closed under star-closure.

Proof. Suppose $L = L(G)$ for $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$.

Then $L^* = L(G^*)$ for $G^* = (V, \Sigma, R^*, S)$

where $R^* = R \cup \{ S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \}$.



S represents L and S^* represents L^* .

Then $S^* \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid S^* S$.

So, $S^* \Rightarrow S$.

Example 6 $L=(0+1)^*00$

$L=L(G)$ for $G=(\{S, A\}, \{0,1\}, R, S)$

where

$R=\{S \rightarrow A00, A \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid AA \mid 0 \mid 1 \}$

The role of nonterminal symbol.

Every nonterminal symbol A represents a language which can be generated by using A as start symbol.

Example 7.

$$L = \{a^m b^n c^p d^q \mid m+n = p+q, m, n, p, q \geq 0\}$$

Let S represent L,

A represent $\{b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\}$

B represent $\{a^m b^n c^p \mid m+n = p, m, n, p \geq 0\}$

C represent $\{b^n c^p d^q \mid n = p+q, n, p, q \geq 0\}$

Then we can find relations

$S \rightarrow aSd \mid B \mid C,$

$B \rightarrow aBc \mid A,$

$C \rightarrow bCd \mid A,$

$A \rightarrow bAc \mid \epsilon.$

Example 8

$$L = \{x \in (0+1)^* \mid x \neq ww \text{ for any } w \in (0+1)^*\}$$

Let us analyze what would happens for x in L .

Case 1. $|x| = \text{odd}$.

In this case, x is either in language

$$A = \{u0v \mid |u|=|v|, u, v \in (0+1)^*\}$$

or

$$B = \{u1v \mid |u|=|v|, u, v \in (0+1)^*\}.$$

Case 2. $|x| = \text{even}$. Write

$$x = x_1 x_2 \dots x_m y_1 y_2 \dots y_m .$$

There exists i such that $x_i \neq y_i$.

Subcase 2.1 $x = x_1 \dots x_{i-1} 0 x_{i+1} \dots x_m y_1 \dots y_{i-1} 1 y_{i+1} \dots y_m$.

x is in AB

Subcase 2.2 $x = x_1 \dots x_{i-1} 1 x_{i+1} \dots x_m y_1 \dots y_{i-1} 0 y_{i+1} \dots y_m$.

x is in BA

Thus, $L = A + B + AB + BA$.

So, $L = L(G)$ for $G = (\{L, A, B\}, \{0, 1\}, R, L)$

where

$$\begin{aligned} R = \{ & L \rightarrow A \mid B \mid AB \mid BA, \\ & A \rightarrow 0 \mid 0A0 \mid 0A1 \mid 1A0 \mid 1A1, \\ & B \rightarrow 1 \mid 0B0 \mid 0B1 \mid 1B0 \mid 1B1 \}. \end{aligned}$$