

2023

# Theory of Computation

**Kun-Ta Chuang**  
**Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering**  
**National Cheng Kung University**



# Outline



Methods for Transforming Grammars

---



Two Important Normal Form

---



A Membership Algorithm for CFGs\*

---

# Theorem 6.1

Let  $G = (V, T, S, P)$  be a context-free grammar. Suppose that  $P$  contains a production of the form

$$A \rightarrow x_1 B x_2$$

Assume that  $A$  and  $B$  are different variables and that

$$B \rightarrow y_1 | y_2 | \dots | y_n$$

is the set of all productions in  $P$  which have  $B$  as the left side.

Let  $\hat{G} = (V, T, S, \hat{P})$  be the grammar in which  $\hat{P}$  is constructed by deleting

$$A \rightarrow x_1 B x_2$$

from  $P$ , and adding to it

把B换掉

$$A \rightarrow x_1 y_1 x_2 | x_1 y_2 x_2 | \dots | x_1 y_n x_2$$

Then

$$L(\hat{G}) = L(G)$$

# Example 6.1

Consider  $G$  with following productions

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow a \mid aaA \mid abBc \\ B &\rightarrow abbA \mid b \end{aligned}$$

*Handwritten annotations:*  
An orange arrow points from the  $B$  in the first production to the  $B$  in the second production.  
An orange arrow points from the  $abbA$  in the second production to the  $abBc$  in the first production.  
The Chinese text "各別代入" (各自代入) is written in orange next to the second arrow.

Using the suggested substitution for the variable  $B$ , we get the grammar  $\hat{G}$

$$A \rightarrow a \mid aaA \mid ababbAc \mid abbc$$

*Handwritten annotations:*  
Orange boxes highlight the  $abbA$  in the third production and the  $b$  in the fourth production, indicating the substitution of  $B$ .

# Useful Substitution Rules

- **Rule 1:** Remove Nullable Variables  $\Rightarrow$  移除  $\epsilon$
- **Rule 2:** Remove Unit-Productions  $\Rightarrow$  移除  $A \rightarrow B$   
 $B \rightarrow A$
- **Rule 3:** Remove Useless Variables  $\Rightarrow$  移除没用到的 variable

# Nullable Variables

$\lambda$  – production :  $A \rightarrow \lambda$

Nullable Variable:  $A \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \lambda$

↳ A有機會變入

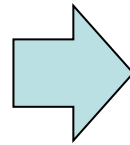
# Example 6.4

$$\{a^n b^n : n \geq 1\}$$

$S_1$  用  $aS_1b$  和  $\lambda$  代入

$$S \rightarrow aS_1b$$

$$S_1 \rightarrow aS_1b \mid \lambda$$



$$S \rightarrow aS_1b \mid ab$$

$$S_1 \rightarrow aS_1b \mid ab$$

$\lambda$  用原本的  $\lambda$  代入

# Example 6.5

Find a CFG without  $\lambda$ -productions equivalent to the grammar G:

*Grammar G*

$S \rightarrow ABaC$      $S \rightarrow ABaC \mid BaC \mid AaC \mid ABa \mid aC \mid Aa \mid Ba \mid a$

$A \rightarrow BC$      $A \rightarrow B \mid C \mid BC$

$B \rightarrow b \mid \lambda$      $B \rightarrow b$

$C \rightarrow D \mid \lambda$      $C \rightarrow D$

$D \rightarrow d$      $D \rightarrow d$

A, B, and C are nullable variables



# Unit-Productions

Unit Production:  $A \rightarrow B$

(a single variable in both sides)

# Removing Unit Productions

Observation:

$$A \rightarrow A \Rightarrow \text{没用}$$

Is removed immediately

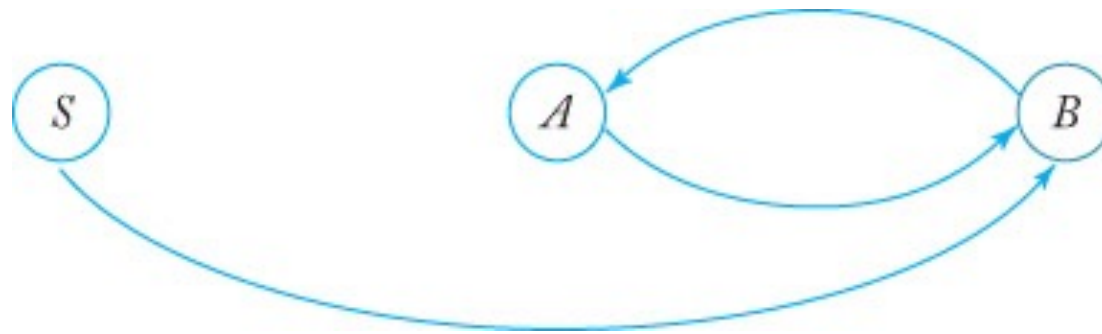
# Example 6.6

Remove all unit-productions from

$$S \rightarrow Aa \mid B$$

$$B \rightarrow \underline{A} \mid bb$$

$$A \rightarrow a \mid bc \mid \underline{B}$$



dependency graph

$$S \rightarrow Aa \mid B$$

$$B \rightarrow A \mid bb$$

$$A \rightarrow a \mid bc \mid B$$

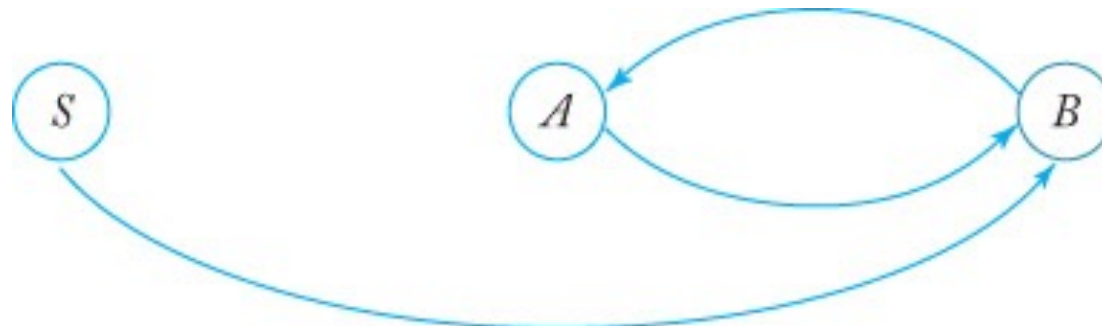
## Example 6.6

$$\begin{array}{|l} S \rightarrow Aa \\ B \rightarrow bb \\ A \rightarrow a \mid bc \end{array}
 +
 \begin{array}{|l} S \rightarrow a \mid bc \mid bb \\ B \rightarrow a \mid bc \\ A \rightarrow bb \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{|l} S \rightarrow a \mid bc \mid bb \mid Aa \\ \del{B \rightarrow a \mid bb \mid bc} \\ A \rightarrow a \mid bb \mid bc \end{array}$$

Non-unit production

New rules

用不到



dependency graph

# Useless Productions

$$S \rightarrow aSb$$

$$S \rightarrow \lambda$$

$$S \rightarrow A$$

$$A \rightarrow aA$$

Useless Production

Some derivations never terminate... 永遠不會停

$$S \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow aA \Rightarrow aaA \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow aa \dots aA \Rightarrow \dots$$

Another grammar:

$$S \rightarrow A$$

$$A \rightarrow aA$$

$$A \rightarrow \lambda$$

$$B \rightarrow bA$$

Useless Production

Not reachable from S!

In general:

contains only  
terminals

if  $S \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow xAy \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow w$

有用到

$w \in L(G)$

then variable  $A$  is **useful**

otherwise, variable  $A$  is **useless**

A production  $A \rightarrow x$  is useless  
iff any of its variables is useless

$$S \rightarrow aSb$$

$$S \rightarrow \lambda$$

Productions

Variables

$$S \rightarrow A$$

useless

$\because A$  為 useless  
 $\hookrightarrow \therefore S \rightarrow A$  也為 useless

useless

$$A \rightarrow aA$$

useless

useless

$$B \rightarrow C$$

useless

useless

$$C \rightarrow D$$

useless



# Removing Useless Productions

## Example 6.3:

Eliminate useless symbols and productions from the grammar below:

$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A \mid C$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow aa$$

$$C \rightarrow aCb$$

**First:**

find all variables that can produce strings with only terminals

↳ 留下能產生 terminal

$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A \mid C$$

$$\{A, B\}$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$\because S \rightarrow A$$

$$B \rightarrow aa$$

$$C \rightarrow aCb$$

$$\{A, B, S\}$$

Keep only the variables  
that produce terminal symbols:  $\{A, B, S\}$   
(the rest variables are useless)

$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A \mid \cancel{C}$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow aa$$

$$\cancel{C \rightarrow aCb}$$



$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow aa$$

Remove useless productions

## Second: Find all variables reachable from $S$

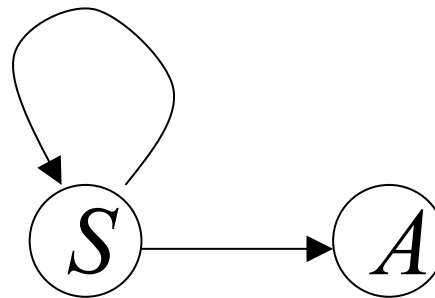
### Dependency graph

- Vertex labeled with variable
- Edge  $(A, B)$  exists iff a production form  $A \rightarrow xBy$

$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow aa$$



not  
reachable

走不到B

Keep only the variables  
reachable from S

(the rest variables are useless)

Final Grammar

$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

~~$$B \rightarrow aa$$~~



$$S \rightarrow aS \mid A$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

Remove useless productions

# Theorem 6.5

*context-free-language*

- Let  $L$  be a CFL that does not contain  $\lambda$ . Then there exists a CFG that generates  $L$  and that does not have any useless-, unit-, or  $\lambda$ -production.

$$S_0 \rightarrow S \mid \lambda$$

- Which one needs to be removed first?
- Remove all undesirable productions using the following sequence of steps:
  - **Step 1:** Remove  $\lambda$ -productions
  - **Step 2:** Remove unit-productions
  - **Step 3:** Remove useless-productions

# Outline



Methods for Transforming Grammars

---



Two Important Normal Form

---



A Membership Algorithm for CFGs\*

---

# Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

Each productions has form:

只能有 2 variable or 1 terminal

$A \rightarrow BC$  or  $A \rightarrow a$

variable

variable

terminal



Noam Chomsky

- The Grammar Guy
- 1928 –
- b. Philadelphia, PA
- PhD – UPenn (1955)
  - Linguistics
- Prof at MIT (Linguistics) (1955 - present)



# Example 6.7

$$S \rightarrow AS$$

$$S \rightarrow a$$

$$A \rightarrow SA$$

$$A \rightarrow b$$

Chomsky  
Normal Form

$$S \rightarrow AS$$

$$S \rightarrow AAS$$
 3 variable

$$A \rightarrow SA$$

$$A \rightarrow aa$$
 2 terminal

Not Chomsky  
Normal Form

# Example 6.8

- Convert the grammar with following productions to CNF:

$$S \rightarrow ABa$$

$$A \rightarrow aab$$

$$B \rightarrow Ac$$

Introduce variables for terminals:  $T_a, T_b, T_c$

↪ 先用  $T_a$  取代  $a$   
並在最後補上  $T_a \rightarrow a$

$$S \rightarrow ABa$$

$$A \rightarrow aab$$

$$B \rightarrow Ac$$



$$S \rightarrow ABT_a$$

$$A \rightarrow T_aT_aT_b$$

$$B \rightarrow AT_c$$

✓  $T_a \rightarrow a$

$$T_b \rightarrow b$$

$$T_c \rightarrow c$$

Introduce intermediate variable:  $V_1$

拆解成 2 variable

$$S \rightarrow AV_1$$

$$V_1 \rightarrow BT_a$$

$$S \rightarrow ABT_a$$

$$A \rightarrow T_aT_aT_b$$

$$B \rightarrow AT_c$$

$$T_a \rightarrow a$$

$$T_b \rightarrow b$$

$$T_c \rightarrow c$$



$$A \rightarrow T_aT_aT_b$$

$$B \rightarrow AT_c$$

$$T_a \rightarrow a$$

$$T_b \rightarrow b$$

$$T_c \rightarrow c$$

Introduce intermediate variable:  $V_2$

$$S \rightarrow AV_1$$

$$V_1 \rightarrow BT_a$$

$$A \rightarrow T_a T_a T_b$$

$$B \rightarrow AT_c$$

$$T_a \rightarrow a$$

$$T_b \rightarrow b$$

$$T_c \rightarrow c$$



$$S \rightarrow AV_1$$

$$V_1 \rightarrow BT_a$$

$$A \rightarrow T_a V_2$$

$$V_2 \rightarrow T_a T_b$$

$$B \rightarrow AT_c$$

$$T_a \rightarrow a$$

$$T_b \rightarrow b$$

$$T_c \rightarrow c$$

Final grammar in Chomsky Normal Form:  $S \rightarrow AV_1$

$$V_1 \rightarrow BT_a$$

$$A \rightarrow T_aV_2$$

$$V_2 \rightarrow T_aT_b$$

$$B \rightarrow AT_c$$

$$T_a \rightarrow a$$

$$T_b \rightarrow b$$

$$T_c \rightarrow c$$

Initial grammar

$$S \rightarrow ABa$$

$$A \rightarrow aab$$

$$B \rightarrow Ac$$

# Theorem 6.6

From any context-free grammar  
(which doesn't produce  $\lambda$ )  
not in Chomsky Normal Form

we can obtain:

An equivalent grammar  
in Chomsky Normal Form

# The Procedure

First remove:

Nullable variables

Unit productions



Then, for every symbol  $a$  :

Add production  $T_a \rightarrow a$

In productions: replace  $a$  with  $T_a$

New variable:  $T_a$

Replace any production  $A \rightarrow C_1 C_2 \cdots C_n$

with  $A \rightarrow C_1 V_1$

$V_1 \rightarrow C_2 V_2$

$\dots$

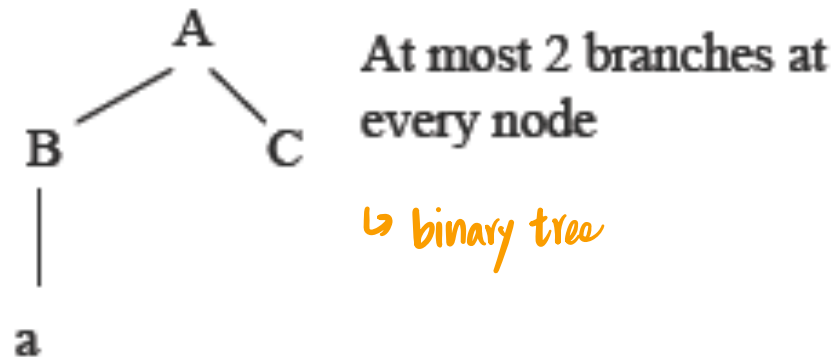
$V_{n-2} \rightarrow C_{n-1} C_n$

New intermediate variables:  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_{n-2}$

**Theorem:** For any context-free grammar  
(which doesn't produce  $\lambda$  )  
there is an equivalent grammar  
in Chomsky Normal Form

# Observations

- Chomsky normal forms are good for parsing and proving theorems



- It is very easy to find the Chomsky normal form for any context-free grammar

# Greibach Normal Form 参考

All productions have form:



**Sheila Greibach**

PhD (1963) Harvard University

Prof. of UCLA(CS)

$$A \rightarrow a V_1 V_2 \cdots V_k \quad k \geq 0$$

symbol

variables

Examples:

$$S \rightarrow cAB$$

$$A \rightarrow aA \mid bB \mid b$$

$$B \rightarrow b$$

Greibach  
Normal Form

$$S \rightarrow abSb$$

$$S \rightarrow aa$$

Not Greibach  
Normal Form

## Example 6.9:

$$S \rightarrow AB$$

$$S \rightarrow aAB \mid bBB \mid bB$$

$$A \rightarrow aA \mid bB \mid b \quad \longrightarrow \quad A \rightarrow aA \mid bB \mid b$$

$$B \rightarrow b$$

$$B \rightarrow b$$

## Example 6.10:

$$S \rightarrow abSb$$

$$S \rightarrow aa$$



$$S \rightarrow aT_bST_b$$

$$S \rightarrow aT_a$$

$$T_a \rightarrow a$$

$$T_b \rightarrow b$$

Greibach  
Normal Form



## Theorem 6.7:

For any context-free grammar  
(which doesn't produce  $\lambda$  )  
there is an equivalent grammar  
in Greibach Normal Form

# Observations

- Greibach normal forms are very good for parsing
- It is hard to find the Greibach normal form of any context-free grammar

不好用

# Outline



Methods for Transforming Grammars

---



Two Important Normal Form

---



A Membership Algorithm for CFGs\*

---

## Membership Question:

for context-free grammar  $G$   
find if string  $w \in L(G)$

## Membership Algorithms:      Parsers

- Exhaustive search parser:  $O(P^{2|w|+1})$   
暴力解
- **CYK** parsing algorithm:  $O(|w|^3)$



# The CYK Parser

J. Cocke

D. H. Younger

T. Kasami

# The CYK Membership Algorithm

## Input:

- Grammar  $G$  in Chomsky Normal Form  
↳ 先轉成 CNF
- String  $w$

## Output:

find if  $w \in L(G)$

# The Algorithm

## Input example:

- Grammar  $G$ :
  - $S \rightarrow AB$
  - $A \rightarrow BB$
  - $A \rightarrow a$
  - $B \rightarrow AB$
  - $B \rightarrow b$
- String  $w$ :  $aabbb$

1 2 3 4 5  
 $aabbbb$  ( $V_{15}$ ) ↪ 列出所有組合(按順序)

	1	2	3	4	5	start position
	a	a	b	b	b	

✓	aa	ab	bb	bb
---	----	----	----	----

3	aab	abb	bbb
---	-----	-----	-----

4	aabb	abbb
---	------	------

5	aabbb
---	-------

length



$$S \rightarrow AB$$

$$A \rightarrow BB$$

$$\underline{A \rightarrow a}$$

$$B \rightarrow AB$$

$$\underline{B \rightarrow b}$$

a	a	b	b	b
A	A	B	B	B
↳ 長度為1, 直接對 grammar				
aa	ab	bb	bb	
aab	abb	bbb		
aabb	abbb			
aabbb				

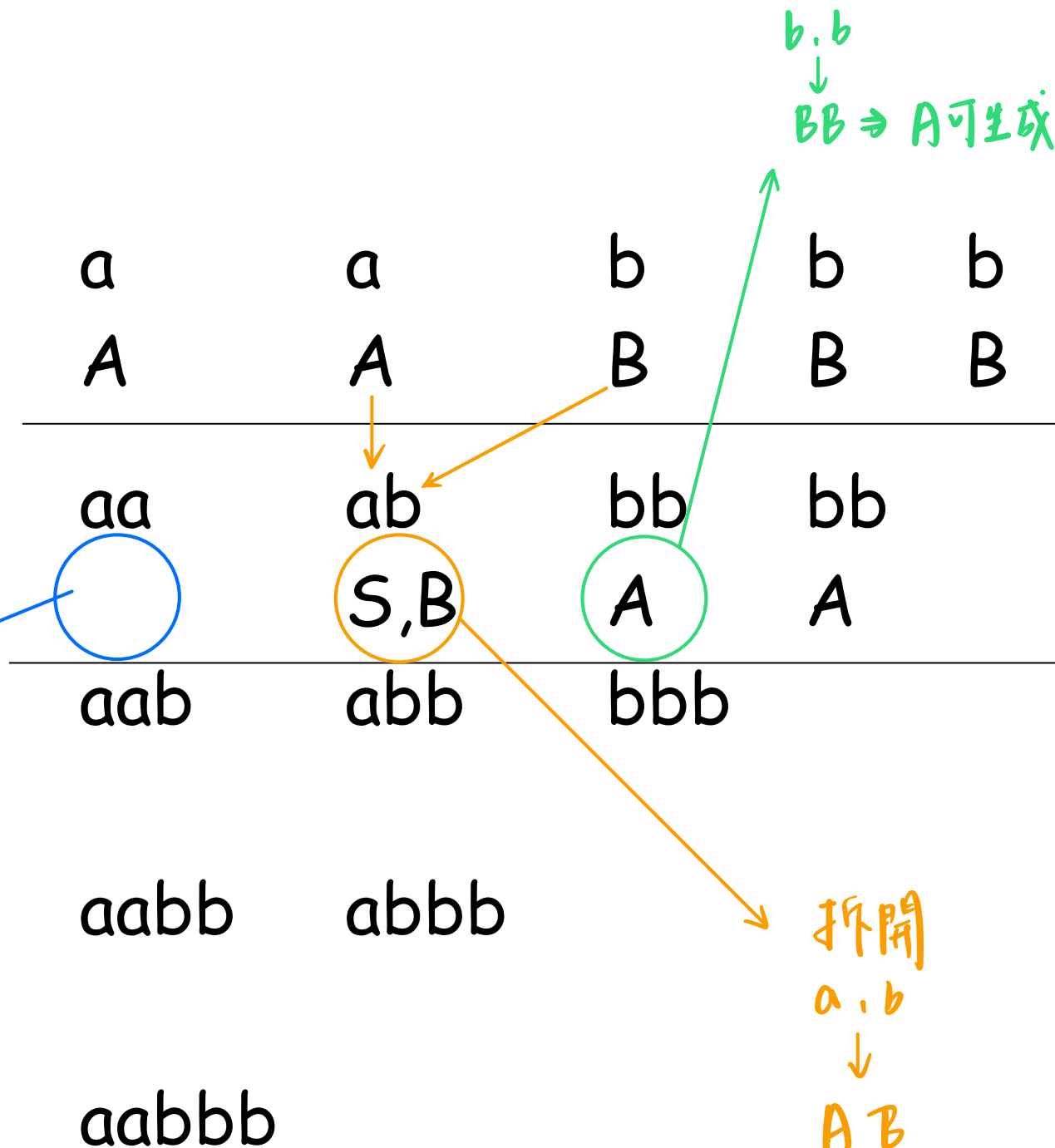
$$\checkmark S \rightarrow AB$$

$$A \rightarrow BB$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$\checkmark B \rightarrow AB$$

$$B \rightarrow b$$



$$S \rightarrow AB$$

$$A \rightarrow BB$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow AB$$

$$B \rightarrow b$$

a

a

b

b

b

A

A

B

B

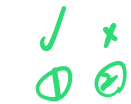
B

aa

ab

bb

bb



S,B

A

A

aab

abb

bbb

S,B

A

S,B

aabb

abbb

a, bb

ab, b

A

S,B

A A

S, B B

aabb

S,B

找不到能生成AA的

找能生成SB or BB  
⇒ A

① a.ab  
↓ ↓  
A S.B  
↳ 我能生成A  
or AB的  
⇒ S.B

② aa.b  
↓  
x  
↳ stop

↳ 一個 string 可由 grammar 生成, 則必有 S

Therefore:

$$aabb \in L(G)$$

Time Complexity:  $|w|^3$

$$\hookrightarrow \underbrace{O(w)} \times \underbrace{O(w)} = w^3$$

$w$  為長度

逗點位置

≡  
≡  
≡

$\frac{w^2}{2}$

每個檢查  $(w-1)$  次

Observation:

The CYK algorithm can be easily converted to a parser (bottom up parser)