


01204211 Discrete Mathematics

Lecture 11b: Context-free languages and grammars (2)¹

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September 11, 2025

¹Based on lecture notes of *Models of Computation* course by Jeff Erickson. 

Review: Definition

A **context-free grammar** consists of the following components:

- ▶ a finite set Σ , a set of *symbols* (or *terminals*),
- ▶ a finite set Γ disjoint from Σ , a set of *non-terminals* (you can think of them as variables),
- ▶ a finite set R of *production rules* of the form $A \rightarrow w$ where $A \in \Gamma$ and $w \in (\Sigma \cup \Gamma)^*$ is a string of symbols and variable, and
- ▶ a *starting* non-terminal (usually the non-terminal of the first production rule).

Review: Applying the rules

If you have strings $x, y, z \in (\Sigma \cup \Gamma)^*$ and the production rule

$$A \rightarrow y,$$

You can apply the rule to the string xAz . This yields the string

$$xyz.$$

We use the notation

$$xAz \rightsquigarrow xyz$$

to describe this application.

Review: Derivation

We say that z derives from x if we can obtain z from x by production rule applications, denoted by $x \rightsquigarrow^* z$.

Formally, for any string $x, z \in (\Sigma \cup \Gamma)^*$, we say that $x \rightsquigarrow^* z$ if either

- ▶ $x = z$, or
- ▶ $x \rightsquigarrow y$ and $y \rightsquigarrow^* z$ for some string $y \in (\Sigma \cup \Gamma)^*$.

Review: $L(w)$

The *language* $L(w)$ of string $w \in (\Sigma \cup \Gamma)^*$ is the set of all strings in Σ^* that derive from w , i.e.,

$$L(w) = \{x \in \Sigma^* \mid w \rightsquigarrow^* x\}.$$

The language **generated by** a context-free grammar G , denoted by $L(G)$ is the language of its starting non-terminal.

A language L is **context-free** if there exists some context-free grammar G such that $L(G) = L$.

Review: Parse tree

► 00011

$$S \rightarrow A \mid B$$

$$A \rightarrow 0A \mid 0C$$

$$B \rightarrow B1 \mid C1$$

$$C \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid 0C1$$

Ambiguity

► $1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$

$$S \rightarrow 1 \mid S + S \mid S * S$$

- A string w is **ambiguous** with respect to a grammar G if more than one parse tree for w exists.
- A grammar G is **ambiguous** if some string is ambiguous with respect to G .

More example

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$$S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid 0S0 \mid 1S1 \mid 0 \mid 1$$

Palindrome in $\{0, 1\}^*$

Consider the following grammar

$$S \longrightarrow 0S1 \mid \varepsilon$$

To show that

$$L(S) = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\},$$

we have to prove

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► $L(S) \supseteq \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$, and

► $L(S) \subseteq \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$.

Proof

→ η n string nimm anzahl der 0's

↳ η n string & generate tot anzahl der 1's
Proof

Consider the grammar $S \longrightarrow 0S1 \mid \varepsilon$.

Lemma 1

$S \rightsquigarrow^* 0^n 1^n$ for every non-negative integer n .

Proof.

Consider any non-negative integer n .

Induction Hypothesis: Assume that for every non-negative integer $k < n$, $S \rightsquigarrow^* 0^k 1^k$.

There are two cases to consider.

Consider the grammar $S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid \varepsilon$.

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Proof.

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There are two cases to consider.

- Case 1: $n = 0$. $0^0 1^0 = \varepsilon$ *Simpler in* $S \rightsquigarrow^* \varepsilon$ *For most production rule*
 $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$

Consider the grammar $S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid \varepsilon$.

Lemma 1

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Proof.

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There are two cases to consider.

► Case 1: $n = 0$.

► Case 2: $n > 0$. *an inductive hypothesis non $S \rightsquigarrow^* 0^k 1^k$ if $k = n-1$ to*

because of $S \rightsquigarrow 0S1$ but: $S \rightsquigarrow^ 0^{n-1} 1^{n-1}$*

if that $S \rightsquigarrow^ 00^{n-1} 1^{n-1}1 = 0^n 1^n$ must be*

inductive hypothesis, which is true.

Consider the grammar $S \longrightarrow 0S1 \mid \varepsilon$.

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Proof.

Consider any non-negative integer n .

Induction Hypothesis: Assume that for every non-negative integer $k < n$, $S \rightsquigarrow^* 0^k 1^k$.

There are two cases to consider.

- ▶ Case 1: $n = 0$.
- ▶ Case 2: $n > 0$. From I.H., we know that

$$S \rightsquigarrow^* 0^{n-1} 1^{n-1}.$$

We can apply rule $S \longrightarrow 0S1$ to obtain $0^n 1^n$, i.e.,

$$S \longrightarrow 0S1 \rightsquigarrow^* 00^{n-1}1^{n-1}1 = 0^n 1^n.$$

In both cases, we conclude that $S \rightsquigarrow^* 0^n 1^n$, as required.



Consider the following grammar

$$S \longrightarrow 0S1 \mid \varepsilon$$

Lemma 2

$$L(S) = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\} \quad -$$

Proof.

בכיוון הראשון: $\{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\} \subseteq L(S)$ נוכח באינדוקציה על n .
בבסיס: $n=0$, $\varepsilon \in L(S)$ כי $S \xrightarrow{*} \varepsilon$.
בהנחה: נניח $0^k 1^k \in L(S)$ עבור $k < n$. אז $S \xrightarrow{*} 0^k 1^k$.
אם $n > 0$, נכתוב $0^n 1^n = 0 \cdot 0^{n-1} 1^{n-1} \cdot 1$.
על ידי ההנחה, $0^{n-1} 1^{n-1} \in L(S)$, ולכן $0 \cdot 0^{n-1} 1^{n-1} 1 \in L(S)$ כי $S \xrightarrow{*} 0 \cdot 0^{n-1} 1^{n-1} 1$.

Consider the following grammar

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Consider any string $w \in L(S)$. We show that $w = 0^n 1^n$ for some non-negative integer n .

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Consider any string $w \in L(S)$. We show that $w = 0^n 1^n$ for some non-negative integer n .

I.H.: Assume that for any string $x \in L(S)$ such that $|x| < |w|$, $x = 0^k 1^k$ for some non-negative integer k .

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There are 2 cases:

Case 1: $w = \varepsilon$.

Consider the following grammar

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Consider any string $w \in L(S)$. We show that $w = 0^n 1^n$ for some non-negative integer n .

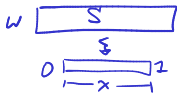
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There are 2 cases:

Case 1: $w = \varepsilon$.

Case 2: $w = 0x1$ for some $x \in L(S)$.

Consider the following grammar



$$S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid \varepsilon$$

A diagram showing the derivation $S \rightarrow 0S1$. A blue box is drawn around the S in the right-hand side, with an arrow pointing to an x above it. A red box is drawn around the S in the recursive part, with an arrow pointing to a w below it. A red bracket is drawn under the 1 .

Lemma 2

$$L(S) = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$$

Proof.

Consider any string $w \in L(S)$. We show that $w = 0^n 1^n$ for some non-negative integer n .

→ **I.H.:** Assume that for any string $x \in L(S)$ such that $|x| < |w|$, $x = 0^k 1^k$ for some non-negative integer k .

There are 2 cases:

Case 1: $w = \varepsilon$.

Case 2: $w = 0x1$ for some $x \in L(S)$. Since $|x| = |w| - 2 < |w|$, we can apply I.H., and get that $x = 0^k 1^k$; thus $w = 00^k 1^k 1$, i.e., $w = 0^n 1^n$ where $n = k + 1$, as required. \square

Careful

$$\{w \mid \underline{\#(0,w)} = \underline{\#(1,w)}\} = R$$

- ▶ When using inductive proof, you have to ensure that each part of the string w is shorter than w .

- ▶ Consider this grammar

$$S \longrightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0.$$

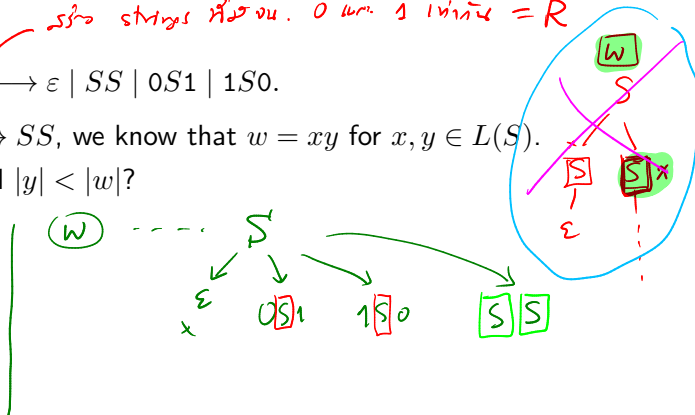
- ▶ When w is created by rule $S \rightarrow SS$, we know that $w = xy$ for $x, y \in L(S)$.
- ▶ Do we know that $|x| < |w|$ and $|y| < |w|$?

$$L(S) = R$$

$$\triangleright L(S) \subseteq R$$

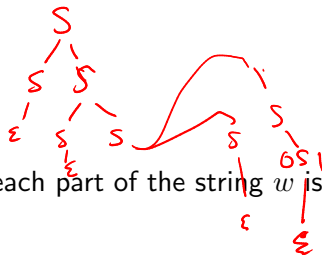
$$\triangleright R \subseteq L(S)$$

for strings x and y . 0 and 1 in w = R



Careful

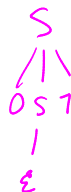
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- ▶ When using inductive proof, you have to ensure that each part of the string w is shorter than w .
- ▶ Consider this grammar

$$S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid \boxed{SS} \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0.$$

- ▶ When w is created by rule $S \rightarrow SS$, we know that $w = xy$ for $x, y \in L(S)$.
- ▶ Do we know that $|x| < |w|$ and $|y| < |w|$?
- ▶ We can consider a minimum-length derivation in the proof to avoid this problem.



Consider grammar $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0$. For every string $w \in L(S)$, we have $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$, where $\#(a, w)$ is the number of occurrences of a in w . $L(S) \subseteq R$

Proof.

Consider $w \in L(S)$. Fix a minimum-length derivation of w .

Induction Hypothesis: Assume that for any string $x \in L(S)$ such that $|x| < |w|$, we have $\#(0, x) = \#(1, x)$.

There are four cases to consider, depending on the first production in this derivation.

- Case 1: The first production is $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$. ✓

Consider grammar $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0$. For every string $w \in L(S)$, we have $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$, where $\#(a, w)$ is the number of occurrences of a in w .

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► Case 1: The first production is $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$.

► Case 2: The first production is $S \rightarrow 0S1$.

$$w = 0x1$$

$$|x| < |w|,$$

$$\text{By I.H. } \#(0, x) = \#(1, x)$$

$$\#(0, w) = 1 + \#(0, x)$$

$$\#(1, w) = 1 + \#(1, x)$$

$$\Downarrow \\ \#(0, w) = \#(1, w).$$

Consider grammar $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0$. For every string $w \in L(S)$, we have $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$, where $\#(a, w)$ is the number of occurrences of a in w .

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Consider grammar $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0$. For every string $w \in L(S)$, we have $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$, where $\#(a, w)$ is the number of occurrences of a in w .

Proof.

Consider $w \in L(S)$. Fix a minimum-length derivation of w . *

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- ▶ Case 4: The first production is $S \rightarrow SS$.

$w = xy$ for $x \in L(S), y \in L(S)$
- by induction min length derivat,
again $\underline{x \neq \varepsilon}, \underline{y \neq \varepsilon}$

$\Rightarrow \underline{|x| < |w|}, \underline{|y| < |w|} \Rightarrow *$

Consider grammar $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0$. For every string $w \in L(S)$, we have $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$, where $\#(a, w)$ is the number of occurrences of a in w .

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Consider grammar $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0$. For every string $w \in L(S)$, we have $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$, where $\#(a, w)$ is the number of occurrences of a in w .

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From I.H.,

Consider grammar $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0$. For every string $w \in L(S)$, we have $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$, where $\#(a, w)$ is the number of occurrences of a in w .

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From I.H., we know that $\#(0, x) = \#(1, x)$ and $\#(0, y) = \#(1, y)$; thus,

$$\#(0, w) = \#(0, x) + \#(0, y)$$

Consider grammar $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0$. For every string $w \in L(S)$, we have $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$, where $\#(a, w)$ is the number of occurrences of a in w .

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From I.H., we know that $\#(0, x) = \#(1, x)$ and $\#(0, y) = \#(1, y)$; thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\#(0, w) &= \#(0, x) + \#(0, y) \\ &= \#(1, x) + \#(1, y)\end{aligned}$$

Consider grammar $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0$. For every string $w \in L(S)$, we have $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$, where $\#(a, w)$ is the number of occurrences of a in w . $L(S) \subseteq R$

Proof.

Consider $w \in L(S)$. Fix a minimum-length derivation of w .

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From I.H., we know that $\#(0, x) = \#(1, x)$ and $\#(0, y) = \#(1, y)$; thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\#(0, w) &= \#(0, x) + \#(0, y) \quad \text{— an I.H.} \\ &= \#(1, x) + \#(1, y) = \#(1, w)\end{aligned}$$

In all cases, we conclude that $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$.

Examples: Not palindromes

Strings in $(0 + 1)^*$ that are not palindromes.

$$S \longrightarrow 0S0 \mid 1S1 \mid 0Z1 \mid 1Z0$$

$$Z \longrightarrow \varepsilon \mid 0Z \mid 1Z$$

Why does this work?

Strings with the same number of 0s and 1s

w

w

$S \rightarrow \epsilon \mid \boxed{SS} \mid \underline{0S1} \mid \underline{1S0}.$

w
Case 1

Case 2

We already show that every string in $L(S)$ contains the same number of 0s and 1s.
Why does it contain all possible required strings?

Thm $R \subseteq L(S)$

When $s \sim \boxed{w}$ if $\#(0, w) = \#(1, w)$

I.H. assume $\exists \gamma \rightarrow x$ if $|x| < |w|$ b/c: $\#(0, x) = \#(1, x)$,

$\therefore \underline{x \in L(S)}$



Strings in which the number of 0s is greater than or equal to the number of 1s

We can start with the previous grammar

$$S \longrightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0.$$

And try to add more rules.

Strings in which the number of 0s is greater than or equal to the number of 1s

We can start with the previous grammar

$$S \longrightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0.$$

And try to add more rules.

$$S \longrightarrow \varepsilon \mid SS \mid 0S1 \mid 1S0 \mid 0S \mid S0.$$

Strings with different numbers of 0s and 1s

We can start with the previous grammar E of strings with equal number of 0 and 1.

$$E \longrightarrow \varepsilon \mid EE \mid 0E1 \mid 1E0.$$

There are two cases.

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There are two cases.

$$S \longrightarrow O \mid I$$

Strings with different numbers of 0s and 1s

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$$E \longrightarrow \varepsilon \mid EE \mid 0E1 \mid 1E0.$$

There are two cases.

$$S \longrightarrow O \mid I$$

$$O \longrightarrow E0O \mid E0E$$

How about I ?

Strings with different numbers of 0s and 1s

We can start with the previous grammar E of strings with equal number of 0 and 1.

$$E \longrightarrow \varepsilon \mid EE \mid 0E1 \mid 1E0.$$

There are two cases.

$$S \longrightarrow O \mid I$$

$$O \longrightarrow E0O \mid E0E$$

How about I ?

$$I \longrightarrow E1I \mid E1E$$

Balanced parentheses

$$S \longrightarrow (S) \mid SS \mid \varepsilon$$

Balanced parentheses

$$S \longrightarrow (S) \mid SS \mid \varepsilon$$

$$S \longrightarrow (S)S \mid \varepsilon$$

Mutual induction

Consider grammar

$$S \longrightarrow 0A1 \mid \varepsilon \qquad A \longrightarrow 1S0 \mid \varepsilon$$

What is $L(S)$?

Mutual induction

Consider grammar

$$S \longrightarrow 0A1 \mid \varepsilon \qquad A \longrightarrow 1S0 \mid \varepsilon$$

What is $L(S)$?

From inspection, we may guess that $L(S) = (01)^*$. But how can we prove that?

Mutual induction

Consider grammar

$$S \longrightarrow 0A1 \mid \varepsilon \qquad A \longrightarrow 1S0 \mid \varepsilon$$

What is $L(S)$?

From inspection, we may guess that $L(S) = (01)^*$. But how can we prove that?

To prove $L(S) = (01)^*$, we must also prove $L(A) = (10)^*$ *at the same time*.