

# Regular language and context-free grammar

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# Context-free grammar

- Is CFG more general than REG?
- CFG is not a subset of REG, as  $\{0^n 1^n : n \geq 0\}$  is in CFG
- $L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

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- Given any regular expression  $r$ , we can create a CFG  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  such that  $L[G] = L[r]$ 
  - We prove it inductively

# Regular expression

- The regular expressions of  $\Sigma^*$  are all strings over  $\Sigma \cup \{ (, ), \emptyset, +, \star \}$  that can be obtained through the following operations:
  - $\emptyset$  and every member of  $\Sigma$  is a regular expression
  - If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are regular expressions, then so is  $(\alpha\beta)$
  - if  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are regular expressions, then so is  $(\alpha + \beta)$
  - if  $\alpha$  is a regular expression, then so is  $\alpha^*$
  - Nothing else is a regular expression

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

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- Base case
  - $r = a, a \in \Sigma$
- CFG :  $S \rightarrow a$

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

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- Base case
  - $r = e$
- CFG :  $S \rightarrow e$

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

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- Base case
  - $r = \emptyset$
- CGF:  $S \rightarrow SS$  (no derivation to terminals)

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

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- Recursive case
  - $r = (r_1 r_2)$
- CFG :
  - suppose we have  $G_1, G_2$  such that  $L(G_i) = L(r_i)$  for  $i = 1, 2$



$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

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- Recursive case
  - $r = (r_1 r_2)$
- CFG :
  - suppose we have  $G_1, G_2$  such that  $L(G_i) = L(r_i)$  for  $i = 1, 2$
  - Let  $S_1, S_2$  be the start symbols of  $G_1, G_2$
  - $G =$  all rules from  $G_1, G_2$ , plus new start symbol  $S$ , and new rule:  
 $S \rightarrow S_1 S_2$

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

---

- Recursive case
  - $r = (r_1 + r_2)$
- CFG:
  - suppose we have  $G_1, G_2$  such that  $L(G_i) = L(r_i)$  for  $i = 1, 2$

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

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- Recursive case
  - $r = (r_1 + r_2)$
- CFG :
  - suppose we have  $G_1, G_2$  such that  $L(G_i) = L(r_i)$  for  $i = 1, 2$
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  - $G =$  all rules from  $G_1, G_2$ , plus new start symbol  $S$ , and new rule:  
 $S \rightarrow S_1 | S_2$

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

---

- Recursive case
  - $r = (r_1^*)$
- CFG:
  - suppose we have  $G_1$  such that  $L(G_1) = L(r_1)$

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

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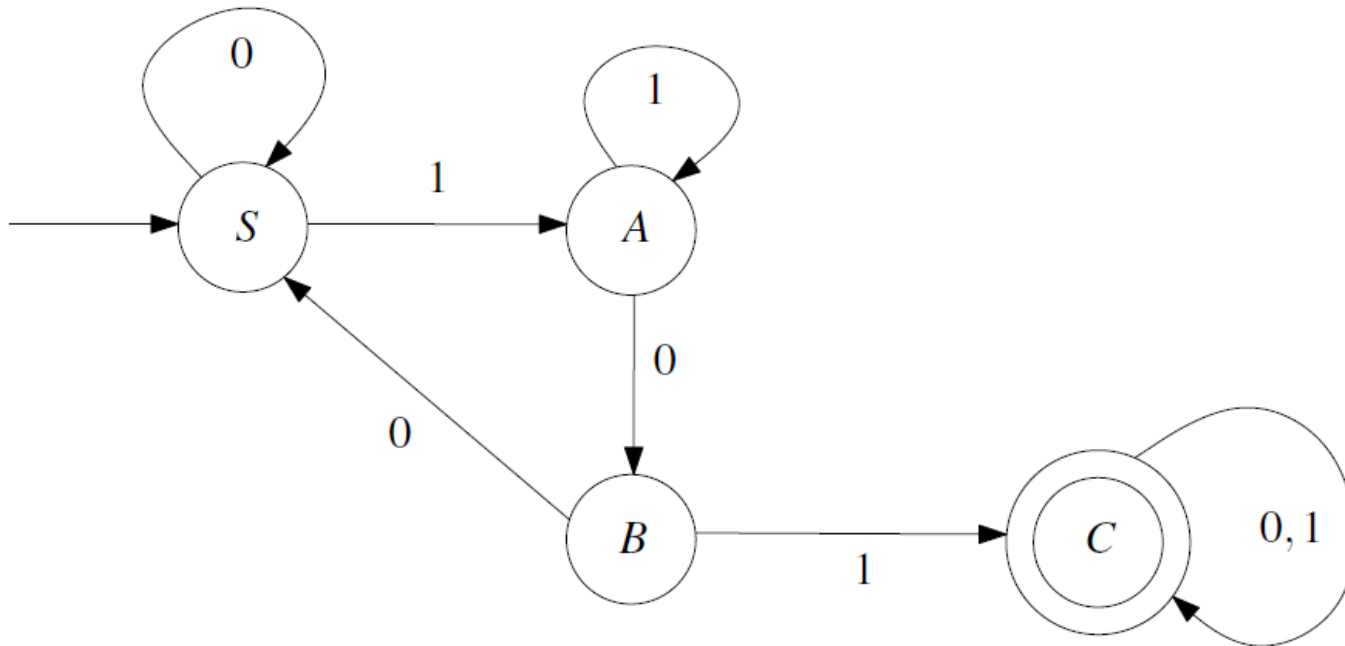
- Recursive case
  - $r = (r_1^*)$
- CFG :
  - suppose we have  $G_1$  such that  $L(G_1) = L(r_1)$
  - Let  $S_1$  be the start symbols of  $G_1$
  - $G =$  all rules from  $G_1$ , plus new start symbol  $S$ , and new rule:  
 $S \rightarrow S_1 S | e$

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

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- Recall  $L_{REG} = L_{DFA}$ , we can also transform a DFA directly to CFG

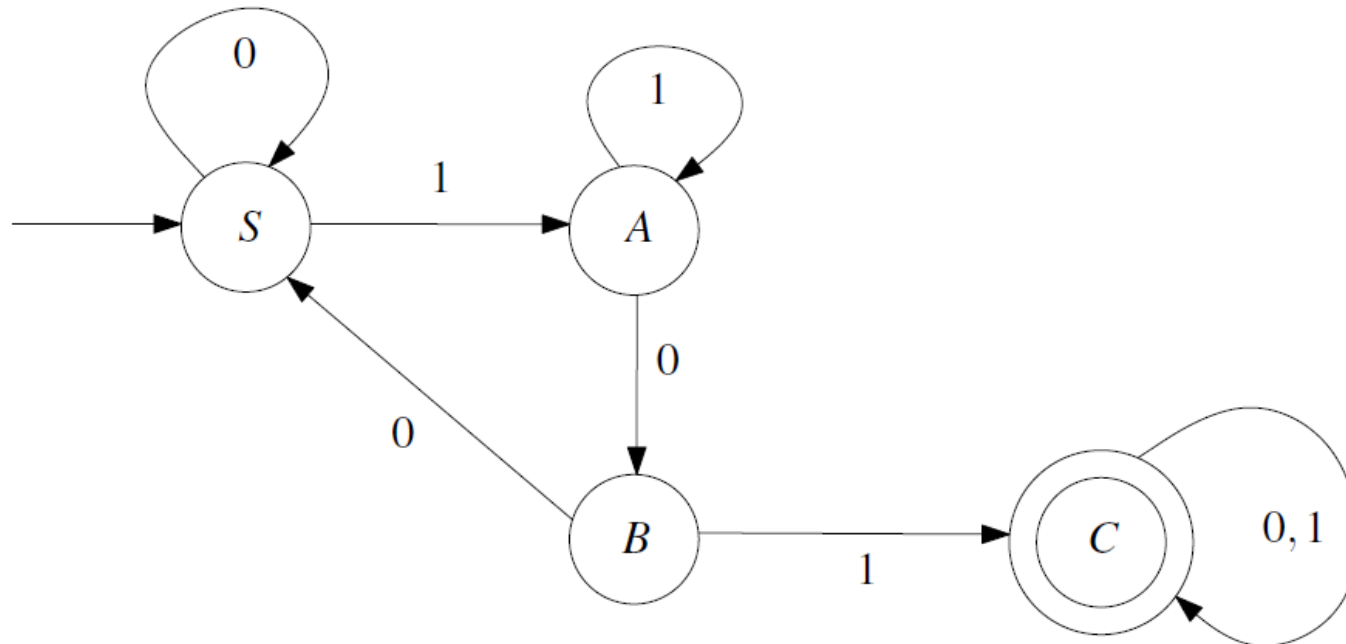
$$L = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* : 101 \text{ is a substring of } w\}.$$



$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

- Recall  $L_{REG} = L_{DFA}$ , we can also transform a DFA directly to CFG

$$L = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* : 101 \text{ is a substring of } w\}.$$



$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 S & \rightarrow & 0S|1A \\
 A & \rightarrow & 0B|1A \\
 B & \rightarrow & 0S|1C \\
 C & \rightarrow & 0C|1C|\epsilon
 \end{array}$$

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

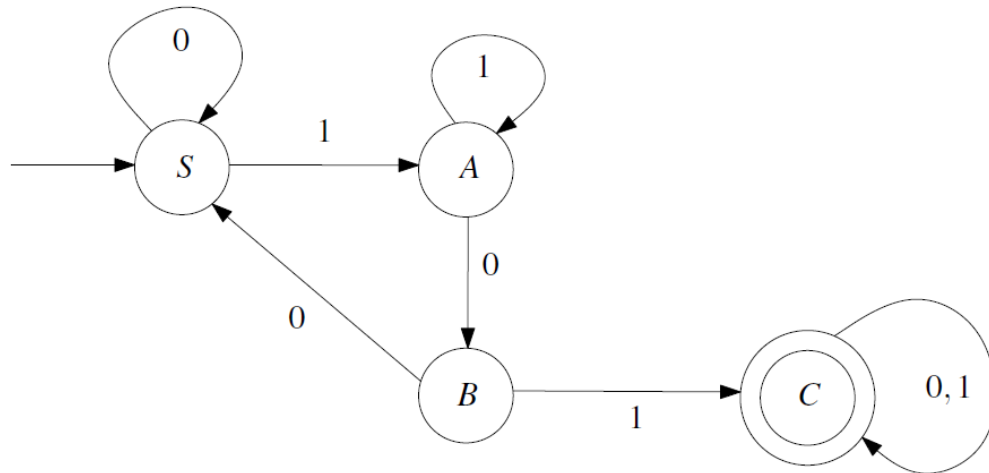
- Recall  $L_{REG} = L_{DFA}$ , we can also transform a DFA directly to CFG

$$L = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* : 101 \text{ is a substring of } w\}.$$

- Example: watch the string **010011011**

$S, S, A, B, S, A, A, B, C, C.$

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow 0S|1A \\ A &\rightarrow 0B|1A \\ B &\rightarrow 0S|1C \\ C &\rightarrow 0C|1C|\epsilon \end{aligned}$$





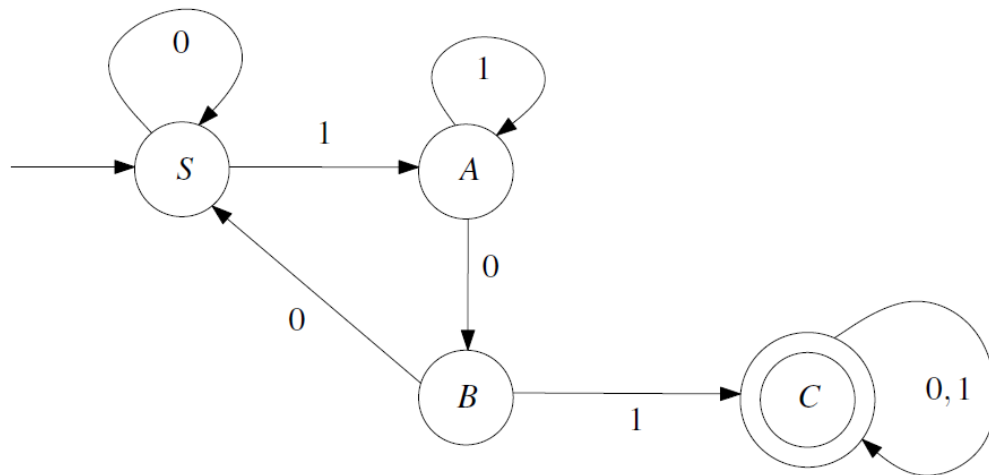
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- Example: watch the string **010011011**

$S, S, A, B, S, A, A, B, C, C.$



$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow 0S|1A \\ A &\rightarrow 0B|1A \\ B &\rightarrow 0S|1C \\ C &\rightarrow 0C|1C|\epsilon \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S &\Rightarrow 0S \\ &\Rightarrow 01A \\ &\Rightarrow 010B \\ &\Rightarrow 0100S \\ &\Rightarrow 01001A \\ &\Rightarrow 010011A \\ &\Rightarrow 0100110B \\ &\Rightarrow 01001101C \\ &\Rightarrow 010011011C \\ &\Rightarrow 010011011. \end{aligned}$$

$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

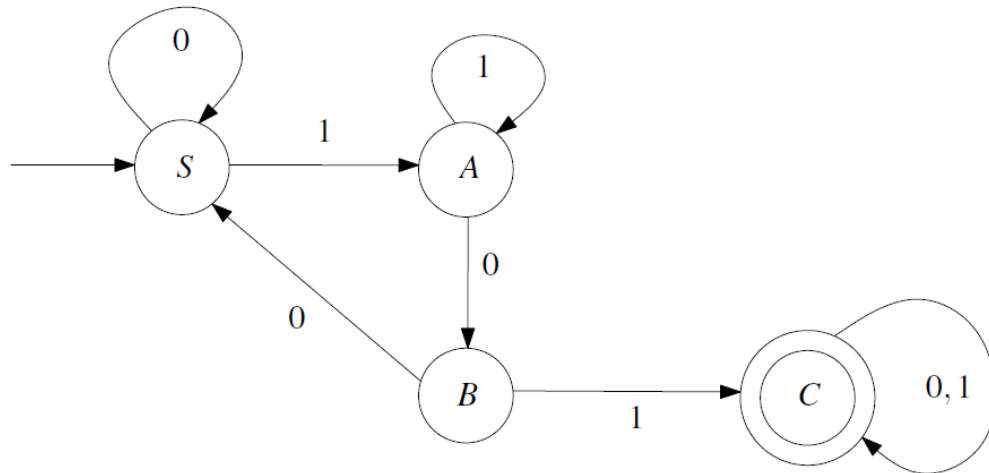
- Recall  $L_{REG} = L_{DFA}$ , we can also transform a DFA directly to CFG

$$L = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* : 101 \text{ is a substring of } w\}.$$

- Example: watch the string **10011**

$S, A, B, S, A, A,$

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow 0S|1A \\ A &\rightarrow 0B|1A \\ B &\rightarrow 0S|1C \\ C &\rightarrow 0C|1C|\epsilon \end{aligned}$$



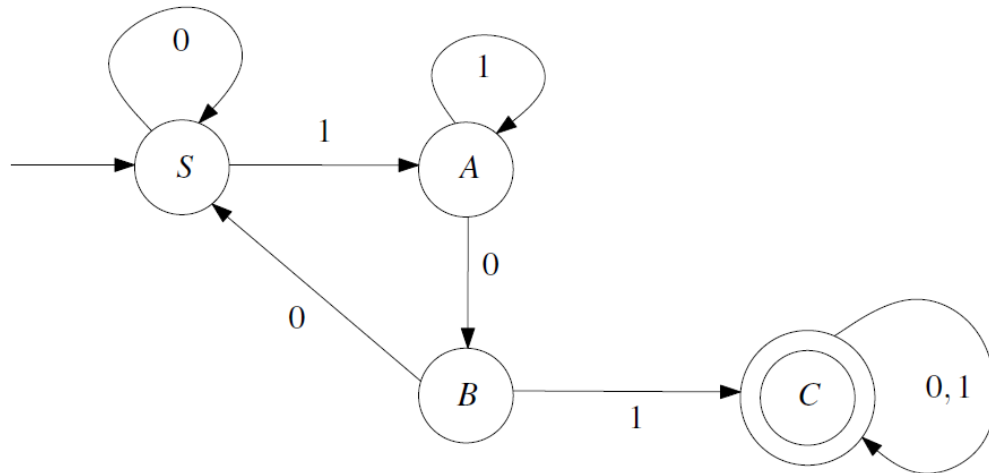
$$L_{REG} \subseteq L_{CFG}$$

- Recall  $L_{REG} = L_{DFA}$ , we can also transform a DFA directly to CFG

$$L = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* : 101 \text{ is a substring of } w\}.$$

- Example: watch the string **10011**

$S, A, B, S, A, A,$



$S \Rightarrow 1A$   
 $\Rightarrow 10B$   
 $\Rightarrow 100S$   
 $\Rightarrow 1001A$   
 $\Rightarrow 10011A.$

$S \rightarrow 0S|1A$   
 $A \rightarrow 0B|1A$   
 $B \rightarrow 0S|1C$   
 $C \rightarrow 0C|1C|\epsilon$

# Chomsky normal form

- A context-free grammar  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  is said to be in **Chomsky normal form**, if every rule in  $R$  has one of the following three forms
  - 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
  - 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal.
  - 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Theorem: For every CFG  $L$ , there exists a CFG in Chomsky normal form whose language is  $L$ .
  - 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
  - 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
  - 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Theorem: For every CFG  $L$ , there exists a CFG in Chomsky normal form whose language is  $L$ .
- We can always modify a given CFG into Chomsky normal form in 5 steps.

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- We can always modify a given CFG into Chomsky normal form in 5 steps.

- Step 1: Eliminate the start variable from the right-hand side of the rules.

- $G_1 = (V_1, \Sigma, R_1, S_1)$ ,
    - New start variable  $S_1$  is the start variable
    - $V_1 = V \cup \{S_1\}$ ,
    - $R_1 = R \cup \{S_1 \rightarrow S\}$ .

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
      - 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
      - 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- We can always modify a given CFG into Chomsky normal form in 5 steps.
  - Step 2: Eliminate all rules of the form  $A \rightarrow e$  for  $A \neq S$ 
    1. Remove  $A \rightarrow e$
    2. Patch the rules such that:
      - a).  $B \rightarrow A$ , add the rule  $B \rightarrow e$  unless this rule has already been deleted
      - b).  $B \rightarrow uAv$  (where  $u$  and  $v$  are strings that are not both empty), add the rule  $B \rightarrow uv$ ;
      - c).  $B \rightarrow uAvAw$  (where  $u, v, w$  are strings), add the rules  $B \rightarrow uvw$ ,  $B \rightarrow uAvw$ , and  $B \rightarrow uvAw$ ; if  $u = v = w = e$  and the rule  $B \rightarrow e$  has already been deleted, then we do not add the rule  $B \rightarrow e$ ;
      - d). treat rules in which  $A$  occurs more than twice on the right-hand side in a similar fashion
  - 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
  - 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
  - 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.



# Chomsky normal form

- We can always modify a given CFG into Chomsky normal form in 5 steps.
    - Step 3: Eliminate all rules of the form  $A \rightarrow B$  for nonterminals  $A, B$ 
      1. Remove  $A \rightarrow B$
      2. Patch the rules such that:
        - a).  $B \rightarrow u$ , add the rule  $A \rightarrow u$  unless this rule has already been deleted
- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
  - 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
  - 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- We can always modify a given CFG into Chomsky normal form in 5 steps.
  - Step 4: Eliminate all rules having more than 2 symbols on the right

1. Remove  $A \rightarrow u_1 u_2 \cdots u_k$
2. Patch the rules such that:

$$\begin{array}{ll} A & \rightarrow u_1 A_1 \\ A_1 & \rightarrow u_2 A_2 \\ A_2 & \rightarrow u_3 A_3 \\ & \vdots \\ A_{k-3} & \rightarrow u_{k-2} A_{k-2} \\ A_{k-2} & \rightarrow u_{k-1} u_k \end{array}$$

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- We can always modify a given CFG into Chomsky normal form in 5 steps.

- Step 5: Eliminate  $A \rightarrow uv$  where  $u, v$  are not both nonterminals

1. Remove  $A \rightarrow u_1 u_2$
2. Patch the rules such that:
  - a).  $u_1$  terminal,  $u_2$  nonterminal, then add  $A \rightarrow U_1 u_2$ ,  
 $U_1 \rightarrow u_1$
  - b).  $u_1$  nonterminal,  $u_2$  terminal, then add  $A \rightarrow u_1 U_2$ ,  
 $U_2 \rightarrow u_2$
  - c).  $u_1, u_2$  different terminals, then add  $A \rightarrow U_1 U_2$ ,  
 $U_1 \rightarrow u_1, U_2 \rightarrow u_2$
  - d).  $u_1, u_2$  same terminal, then add  $A \rightarrow U_1 U_1, U_1 \rightarrow u_1$

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Example:  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, A)$ , where  $V = \{A, B, 0, 1\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , start variable  $A$ , Rules:

$$A \rightarrow BAB|B|e$$

$$B \rightarrow 00|e$$

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

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$$A \rightarrow BAB|B|e$$

$$B \rightarrow 00|e$$

- Step 1: Eliminate the start variable from the right-hand side of the rules.

$$S \rightarrow A$$

$$A \rightarrow BAB|B|e$$

$$B \rightarrow 00|e$$

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Example:  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, A)$ , where  $V = \{A, B, 0, 1\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , start variable  $A$ , Rules:

$$S \rightarrow A$$

$$A \rightarrow BAB|B|e \quad \text{After Step 1}$$

$$B \rightarrow 00|e$$

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Example:  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, A)$ , where  $V = \{A, B, 0, 1\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , start variable  $A$ , Rules:

$$S \rightarrow A$$

$$A \rightarrow BAB|B|e \quad \text{After Step 1}$$

$$B \rightarrow 00|e$$

- Step 2: Eliminate all rules of the form  $A \rightarrow e$  for  $A \neq S$

1. Remove  $A \rightarrow e$

2. Patch the rule:

$$S \rightarrow A, \text{ add } S \rightarrow e$$

$$A \rightarrow BAB, \text{ add } A \rightarrow BB$$

3. Remove  $B \rightarrow e$

$$A \rightarrow BAB, \text{ add } A \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow BA$$

$$A \rightarrow B, \text{ add } A \rightarrow e, \text{ but is deleted already, do not add}$$

$$A \rightarrow BB, \text{ add } A \rightarrow B, \text{ do not add } A \rightarrow e$$

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .

- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal

- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Example:  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, A)$ , where  $V = \{A, B, 0, 1\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , start variable  $A$ , Rules:

$$S \rightarrow A|e$$

$$A \rightarrow BAB|B|BB|AB|BA$$

$$B \rightarrow 00$$

After Step 2

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.



# Chomsky normal form

- Example:  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, A)$ , where  $V = \{A, B, 0, 1\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , start variable  $A$ , Rules:

$$S \rightarrow A|e$$

$$A \rightarrow BAB|B|BB|AB|BA$$

After Step 2

$$B \rightarrow 00$$

- Step 3: Eliminate all rules of the form  $A \rightarrow B$  for nonterminals  $A, B$

1. Remove  $S \rightarrow A$

Patch the rule:

$$\text{Add } S \rightarrow BAB|B|BB|AB|BA$$

2. Remove  $S \rightarrow B$

$$\text{Add } S \rightarrow 00$$

3. Remove  $A \rightarrow B$

$$\text{Add } A \rightarrow 00$$

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Example:  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, A)$ , where  $V = \{A, B, 0, 1\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , start variable  $A$ , Rules:

$S \rightarrow e|BAB|BB|AB|BA|00$

$A \rightarrow BAB|BB|AB|BA|00$

$B \rightarrow 00$

After Step 3

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Example:  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, A)$ , where  $V = \{A, B, 0, 1\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , start variable  $A$ , Rules:

$$S \rightarrow e|BAB|BB|AB|BA|00$$

$$A \rightarrow BAB|BB|AB|BA|00$$

After Step 3

$$B \rightarrow 00$$

- Step 4: Eliminate all rules having more than 2 symbols on the right

1. Remove  $S \rightarrow BAB$

Add  $S \rightarrow BA_1$  and  $A_1 \rightarrow AB$

2. Remove  $A \rightarrow BAB$

Add  $A \rightarrow BA_2$  and  $A_2 \rightarrow AB$

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Example:  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, A)$ , where  $V = \{A, B, 0, 1\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , start variable  $A$ , Rules:

$$S \rightarrow e|BB|AB|BA|00|BA_1$$

$$A \rightarrow BB|AB|BA|00|BA_2$$

$$B \rightarrow 00$$

$$A_1 \rightarrow AB$$

$$A_2 \rightarrow AB$$

After Step 4

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Example:  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, A)$ , where  $V = \{A, B, 0, 1\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , start variable  $A$ , Rules:

$$S \rightarrow e|BB|AB|BA|00|BA_1$$

$$A \rightarrow BB|AB|BA|00|BA_2$$

After Step 4

$$B \rightarrow 00$$

$$A_1 \rightarrow AB$$

$$A_2 \rightarrow AB$$

- Step 5: Eliminate  $A \rightarrow uv$  where  $u, v$  are not both nonterminals

1. Remove  $S \rightarrow 00$

Add  $S \rightarrow A_3A_3$  and  $A_3 \rightarrow 0$

2. Remove  $A \rightarrow 00$

Add  $A \rightarrow A_4A_4$  and  $A_4 \rightarrow 0$

3. Remove  $B \rightarrow 00$

Add  $B \rightarrow A_5A_5$  and  $A_5 \rightarrow 0$

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .

- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal

- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.

# Chomsky normal form

- Example:  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, A)$ , where  $V = \{A, B, 0, 1\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , start variable  $A$ , Rules:

$$S \rightarrow e|BB|AB|BA|A_3A_3|BA_1$$

$$A \rightarrow BB|AB|BA|A_4A_4|BA_2$$

After Step 5

$$B \rightarrow A_5A_5$$

$$A_1 \rightarrow AB$$

$$A_2 \rightarrow AB$$

$$A_3 \rightarrow 0$$

$$A_4 \rightarrow 0$$

$$A_5 \rightarrow 0$$

- 1.  $A \rightarrow BC$ , where  $A, B, C$  are nonterminals,  $B \neq S$ , and  $C \neq S$ .
- 2.  $A \rightarrow a$ , where  $A$  is a nonterminal and  $a$  is a terminal
- 3.  $S \rightarrow e$ , where  $S$  is the start variable.