



## Pre-lecture teaser

Given the language:

$$L = \{ \underline{ww^R} \mid w \in \{0, 1\}^* \} \quad (1)$$

Prove that this language is non-regular

all even-length  
binary palindrome  
strings

Eg:  $w = 01$   
 $w^R = 10$   $\Rightarrow$   $ww^R = 0110$

$$\epsilon \in L ? \checkmark$$

$$010 \in L ? \times$$

$$\underline{011110} \in L ? \checkmark$$

$$F = \{ (01)^i \mid i > 0 \}$$

Complete the process!

(DIK)

# ECE-374-B: Lecture 6 - Context-Free Grammars

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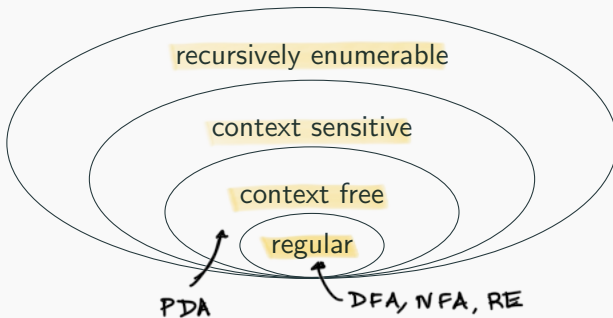
## Pre-lecture teaser

Given the language:

$$L = \{ww^R \mid w \in \{0, 1\}^*\} \quad (2)$$

Prove that this language is non-regular

# Chomsky hierarchy revisited



## Example of Context-Free Languages

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## New addition to our toolbox

Regular languages could be constructed using a finite number of:

- Unions
- Concatenations
- Repetitions

With context-free languages we have a much more powerful tool:

Substitution (aka recursion)!

## Example

Grammar:

- $V = \{S\}$  variables / non-terminal symbols
- $T = \{0, 1\}$  terminal symbols / alphabet
- $P = \{S \rightarrow \epsilon \mid 0S0 \mid 1S1\}$  production rules  
(abbrev. for  $S \rightarrow \epsilon$ ,  $S \rightarrow 0S0$ ,  $S \rightarrow 1S1$ )

$$S \rightarrow \epsilon$$

$$S \rightarrow 0S0 \rightarrow 00$$

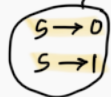
$$S \rightarrow 1S1 \rightarrow 10S01$$

$$S \rightarrow 1S1 \rightarrow 11S11 \rightarrow 111\underline{S}111 \rightarrow 111111$$

palindromes?

even length ( $\checkmark$ )

all (x)



on top of the existing rules.

$\Rightarrow$  all palindromes

## Example

- $V = \{S\}$
- $T = \{0, 1\}$
- $P = \{S \rightarrow \epsilon \mid 0S0 \mid 1S1\}$   
(abbrev. for  $S \rightarrow \epsilon, S \rightarrow 0S0, S \rightarrow 1S1$ )

$S \rightsquigarrow 0S0 \rightsquigarrow 01S10 \rightsquigarrow 011S110 \rightsquigarrow 011\epsilon 110 \rightsquigarrow \underline{011110}$

## Example

- $V = \{S\}$
- $T = \{0, 1\}$
- $P = \{S \rightarrow \epsilon \mid 0S0 \mid 1S1\}$   
(abbrev. for  $S \rightarrow \epsilon, S \rightarrow 0S0, S \rightarrow 1S1$ )

$S \rightsquigarrow 0S0 \rightsquigarrow 01S10 \rightsquigarrow 011S110 \rightsquigarrow 011\epsilon 110 \rightsquigarrow 011110$

What strings can  $S$  generate like this?

## Formal definition of context-free languages (CFGs)

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# Context Free Grammar (CFG) Definition

## Definition

A CFG is a quadruple  $G = (\underline{V}, \underline{T}, \underline{P}, \underline{S})$

- $V$  is a finite set of non-terminal (variable) symbols

$$G = \left( \text{Variables, Terminals, Productions, Start var} \right)$$

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- $T$  is a finite set of terminal symbols (alphabet)
- $P$  is a finite set of productions, each of the form

$$\underline{A} \rightarrow \underline{\alpha}$$

where  $A \in V$  and  $\alpha$  is a string in  $(V \cup T)^*$ .

Formally,  $P \subset V \times (V \cup T)^*$ .

$$S \rightarrow \underline{\epsilon}$$

$$S \rightarrow \underline{0S0}$$

$$S \rightarrow 1S1$$

Non-Terminal Symbol  
 $A \rightarrow \alpha$   
 $\alpha \in (V \cup T)^*$

$S \rightarrow 0S0$   
 one terminal symbol

(i)  $\underline{S} \rightarrow \underline{\epsilon}$ ,  $S \rightarrow 0S0$ ,  $A \rightarrow 1A$

Eg.  $S1 \rightarrow 0S$ : context sensitive

$$G = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} \text{Variables,} & \text{Terminals,} & \text{Productions,} & \text{Start var} \end{array} \right)$$

Context free

$$\begin{cases} S \rightarrow \epsilon \\ S \rightarrow 0S0 \\ S \rightarrow 1S1 \end{cases}$$

$$0S0 \rightsquigarrow 00$$

$$0S0 \rightsquigarrow 00S00$$

$$1S \rightarrow 0S0$$

$$0S0 \rightsquigarrow$$

$$1S0$$

Context-sensitive

# Context Free Grammar (CFG) Definition

## Definition

A CFG is a quadruple  $G = (V, T, P, S)$

- $V$  is a finite set of non-terminal (variable) symbols
- $T$  is a finite set of terminal symbols (alphabet)
- $P$  is a finite set of productions, each of the form  $A \rightarrow \alpha$   
where  $A \in V$  and  $\alpha$  is a string in  $(V \cup T)^*$ .  
Formally,  $P \subset V \times (V \cup T)^*$ .
- $S \in V$  is a start symbol

$$G = \left( \text{Variables, Terminals, Productions, Start var} \right)$$

## Example formally...

Grammar:

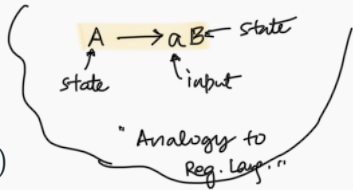
- $V = \{S\}$
- $T = \{0, 1\}$
- $P = \{S \rightarrow \epsilon \mid 0S0 \mid 1S1\}$   
(abbrev. for  $S \rightarrow \epsilon, S \rightarrow 0S0, S \rightarrow 1S1$ )

$$G = \left( \underbrace{\{S\}}_V, \underbrace{\{0, 1\}}_T, \underbrace{\left\{ \begin{array}{l} S \rightarrow \epsilon, \\ S \rightarrow 0S0 \\ S \rightarrow 1S1 \end{array} \right\}}_P, \underbrace{S}_S \right)$$

# Notation and Convention

Let  $G = (V, T, P, S)$  then

- $a, b, c, d, \dots$ , in  $T$  (terminals)
- $(A) B, C, D, \dots$ , in  $V$  (non-terminals)
- $u, v, w, x, y, \dots$  in  $T^*$  for strings of terminals
- $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots$  in  $(V \cup T)^*$
- $\underline{X}, \underline{Y}, \underline{X}$  in  $\underline{V \cup T}$



# “Derives” relation

Formalism for how strings are derived/generated

## Definition

Let  $G = (V, T, P, S)$  be a CFG. For strings  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in (V \cup T)^*$  we say  $\alpha_1$  derives  $\alpha_2$  denoted by  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow_G \alpha_2$  if there exist strings  $\beta, \gamma, \delta$  in  $(V \cup T)^*$  such that

- $\alpha_1 = \beta A \delta$        $\beta A \delta$        $\beta A \delta \rightsquigarrow_G \beta \gamma \delta$
- $\alpha_2 = \beta \gamma \delta$        $\beta \gamma \delta$
- $A \rightarrow \gamma$  is in  $P$ .      if  $A \rightarrow \gamma$

Examples:  $S \rightsquigarrow \epsilon$ ,  $S \rightsquigarrow 0S1$ ,  $0S1 \rightsquigarrow 00S11$ ,  $0S1 \rightsquigarrow 01$ .

P:  
 $S \rightarrow \epsilon$       ↗  
 $S \rightarrow 0S1$       ↗



## “Derives” relation continued

### Definition

For integer  $k \geq 0$ ,  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^k \alpha_2$  inductive defined:

*Base case:* •  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^0 \alpha_2$  if  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$

*Inductive* •  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^k \alpha_2$  if  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow \beta_1$  and  $\beta_1 \rightsquigarrow^{k-1} \alpha_2$ .

*Part:*

## “Derives” relation continued

### Definition

For integer  $k \geq 0$ ,  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^k \alpha_2$  inductive defined:

- $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^0 \alpha_2$  if  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$
- $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^k \alpha_2$  if  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow \beta_1$  and  $\beta_1 \rightsquigarrow^{k-1} \alpha_2$ .
- **Alternative definition:**  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^k \alpha_2$  if  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^{k-1} \beta_1$  and  $\beta_1 \rightsquigarrow \alpha_2$

## “Derives” relation continued

### Definition

For integer  $k \geq 0$ ,  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^k \alpha_2$  inductive defined:

- $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^0 \alpha_2$  if  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$
- $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^k \alpha_2$  if  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow \beta_1$  and  $\beta_1 \rightsquigarrow^{k-1} \alpha_2$ .
- **Alternative definition:**  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^k \alpha_2$  if  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^{k-1} \beta_1$  and  $\beta_1 \rightsquigarrow \alpha_2$

$\rightsquigarrow^*$  is the reflexive and transitive closure of  $\rightsquigarrow$ .

$\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^* \alpha_2$  if  $\alpha_1 \rightsquigarrow^k \alpha_2$  for some  $k$ .

**Examples:**  $S \rightsquigarrow^* \epsilon$ ,  $0S1 \rightsquigarrow^* 0000011111$ .

# Context Free Languages

## Definition

The language generated by CFG  $G = (V, T, P, S)$  is denoted by  $L(G)$  where  $L(G) = \{w \in T^* \mid S \xrightarrow{*} w\}$ .

Recall:

$$\text{DFA: } M \quad L(M) = \{w \mid \delta^*(q, w) \in A\}$$

$$\text{NFA: } N \quad L(N) = \{w \mid \delta^*(q, w) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$$

$$\text{RE: } R \quad L(R) = \{w \mid w \text{ is generated by } R\}$$

$$\text{CFG: } G \quad L(G) = \{w \in T^* \mid S \xrightarrow{*} w\}$$

# Context Free Languages

## Definition

The language generated by CFG  $G = (V, T, P, S)$  is denoted by  $L(G)$  where  $L(G) = \{w \in T^* \mid S \rightsquigarrow^* w\}$ .

## Definition

A language  $L_1$  is context free (CFL) if it is generated by a context free grammar. That is, there is a CFG  $G$  such that  $L_1 = L(G)$ .

# Example

non-regular!  
 $L = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$

$V = \{S\}$

$T = \{0, 1\}$

$P = \quad \epsilon \in L? \text{ YES! } \quad S \rightarrow \epsilon$

$01 \in L? \text{ YES!}$   
 $0011 \in L? \text{ YES}$   
... }  $S \rightarrow 0S1$

$S = S$

# Example

$S \rightarrow OS1 \rightarrow OOS11$   
 $\rightarrow OOS111$   
 $\rightarrow OOO1111$

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

000 | 1111  
000 | 11111

non-reg!

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

I'll post my solution  
on Piazza if  
needed!

$$V = \{S\}$$

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

$$P = S \rightarrow OS1$$

$$S \rightarrow S1$$

$$S = S$$

$$S \rightarrow 1$$

( ! )

# Converting regular languages into CFL

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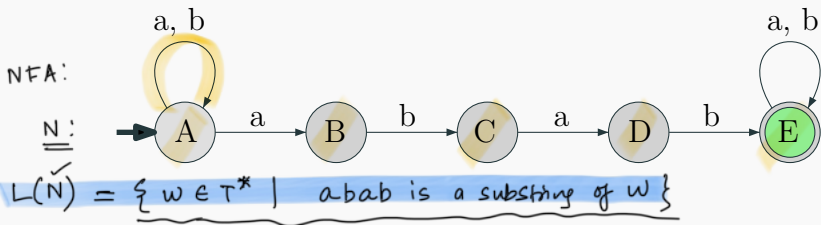


# Regular Grammar

What was the grammar for a regular language?

Let's figure it out visually!

# Converting regular languages into CFL I



$$G = \left( \left\{ A, B, C, D, E \right\}, \{ a, b \}, \left\{ \begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow aA, A \rightarrow bA, A \rightarrow aB, \\ B \rightarrow bC, \\ C \rightarrow aD, \\ D \rightarrow bE, \\ E \rightarrow aE, E \rightarrow bE, E \rightarrow \varepsilon \end{array} \right\}, A \right)$$

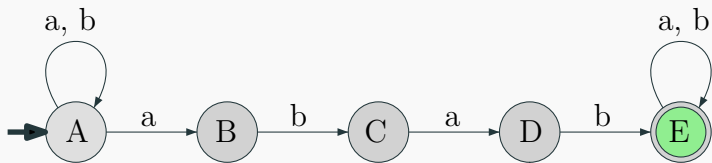
$\underline{L(G)}$

Claim:  $L(N) = L(G)$

## Converting regular languages into CFL II

$M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$ : DFA for regular language  $L$ .

$$G = \left( \underbrace{Q}_{\text{Variables}}, \underbrace{\Sigma}_{\text{Terminals}}, \overbrace{\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{q \rightarrow a\delta(q, a) \mid q \in Q, a \in \Sigma\} \\ \cup \{q \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid q \in A\} \end{array} \right\}}^{\text{Productions}}, \underbrace{s}_{\text{Start var}} \right)$$



## Converting regular languages into CFL I

~~X~~:  $\{a, b, \epsilon\}$      $abeab$

$$G = \left( \left\{ A, B, C, D, E \right\}, \left\{ a, b \right\}, \left\{ \begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow aA, A \rightarrow bA, A \rightarrow aB, \\ B \rightarrow bC, \\ C \rightarrow aD, \\ D \rightarrow bE, \\ E \rightarrow aE, E \rightarrow bE, E \rightarrow \epsilon \end{array} \right\}, A \right)$$

In regular languages:

- Terminals can only appear on one side of the production string
- Only one variable allowed in production result

## The result...

### Lemma

*For an regular language  $L$ , there is a context-free grammar (CFG) that generates it.*

# Push-down automata

---

## The machine that generates CFGs

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

We have NFAs from regular languages. What can we add to enable them to recognize CFLs?

# The machine that generates CFGs

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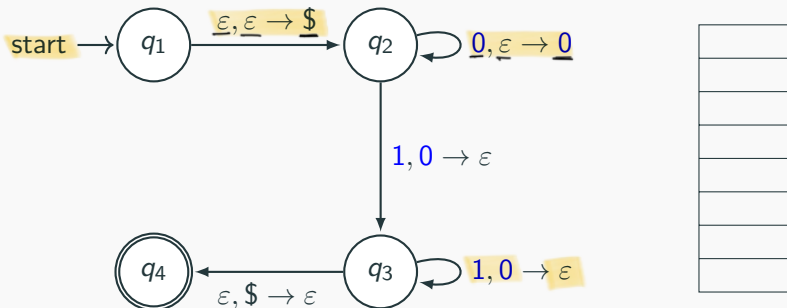
We have NFAs from regular languages. What can we add to enable them to recognize CFLs?

We need a stack!

↳ LIFO



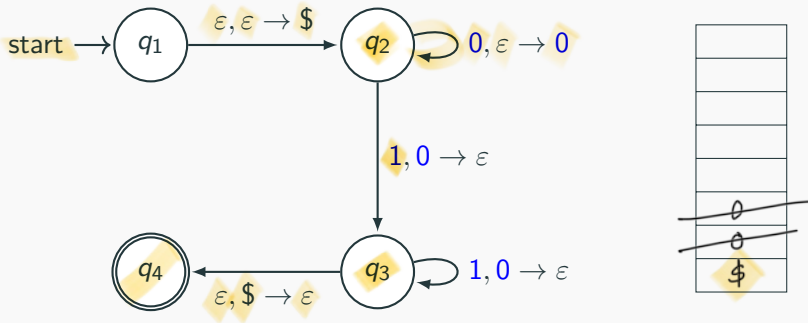
## Push-down automata example



Each transition is formatted as:

$$\langle \text{input read} \rangle, \langle \text{stack pop} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{stack push} \rangle \quad (3)$$

# Push-down automata example



Does this machine recognize ~~0011~~?

$$\{0^n 1^n : n \geq 1\}$$

0011  $\rightarrow$  Accept

00111  $\rightarrow$  Reject



## Formal Tuple Notation

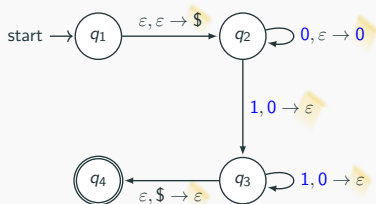
### Definition

A non-deterministic push-down automata  $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, s, A)$  is a **six** tuple where

- $Q$  is a **finite set** whose elements are called **states**,
- $\Sigma$  is a **finite set** called the **input alphabet**,
- $\Gamma$  is a **finite set** called the **stack alphabet**,
- $\delta: \underline{Q} \times \underline{\Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}} \times \underline{\Gamma \cup \{\epsilon\}} \rightarrow \underline{\mathcal{P}(\check{Q} \times (\underline{\Gamma \cup \{\epsilon\}}))}$  is the **transition function**
- $s$  is the **start state**
- $A$  is the **set of accepting states**

**Non-deterministic PDAs are more powerful than deterministic PDAs. Hence we'll only be talking about non-deterministic PDAs.**

# Formal Tuple Notation of $0^n1^n$



- $Q = \{q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}$
- $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- $\Gamma = \{0, \$\}$
- $s = q_1$
- $A = \{q_4\}$

	Input Stack		
	0	0	1
$\delta =$	$q_1$	$\{(q_2, \$)\}$	$\{(q_2, \$)\}$
	$q_2$	$\{(q_2, 0)\}$	$\{(q_3, \epsilon)\}$
	$q_3$	$\{(q_3, \epsilon)\}$	$\{(q_4, \epsilon)\}$
	$q_4$		

(DIY)

## Example PDA

Build the PDA that recognizes the language:

$$L = \{\underline{ww}^R \mid w \in \{0, 1\}^*\} \quad (3)$$

All even length palindrome strings!

## Convert a CFG to a PDA I

Converting a CFG to a PDA is simple (but a little tedious). Let's demonstrate via simple example:

$$\text{CFG} : S \rightarrow 0S|1$$

# Convert a CFG to a PDA I

Converting a CFG to a PDA is simple (but a little tedious). Let's demonstrate via simple example:

$$S \rightarrow 0S1$$

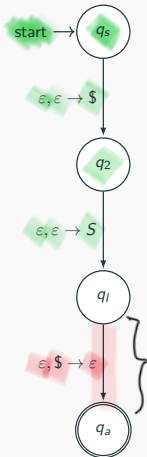
1  
01  
...

Idea:

- We try to recreate the string on the stack:
  - Everytime we see a non-terminal, we replace it by one of the replacement rules.
  - Everytime we see a terminal symbol, we take that symbol from the input.
- if we reach a point where there stack is empty and the input is empty, then we accept the string.



# Convert a CFG to a PDA I



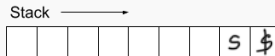
$$\underline{S} \rightarrow \underline{0S} | \underline{1} | \epsilon$$

$$S \rightarrow 0S$$

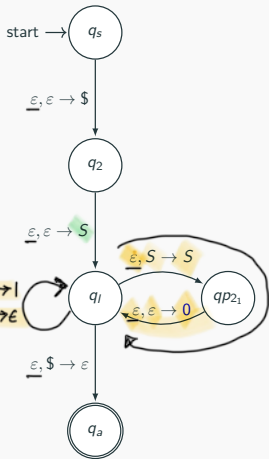
$$S \rightarrow 1$$

$$S \rightarrow \epsilon$$

- First let's put in a \$ to mark the end of the string
- Also let's put in the start symbol on the stack.



# Convert a CFG to a PDA I



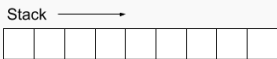
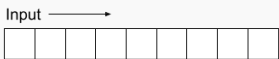
$$\underline{G}: S \rightarrow 0S \mid 1 \mid \epsilon \quad \begin{array}{l} S \rightarrow 1 \\ S \rightarrow \epsilon \end{array}$$

Next we want to add a loop for every non-terminal symbol that replaces that non-terminal with the result.

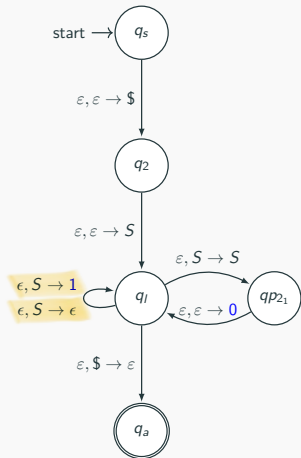
Consider the rule:  $S \rightarrow 0S$

$$\begin{array}{l} S \rightarrow \epsilon \\ S \rightarrow 0S \\ \Rightarrow 0 \in L(G) \end{array}$$

- So we got to pop the  $S$  non-terminal,
- Add a  $S$  non-terminal to the stack.
- And add a  $0$  terminal to the stack.

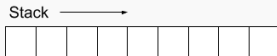
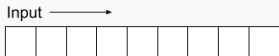


# Convert a CFG to a PDA I

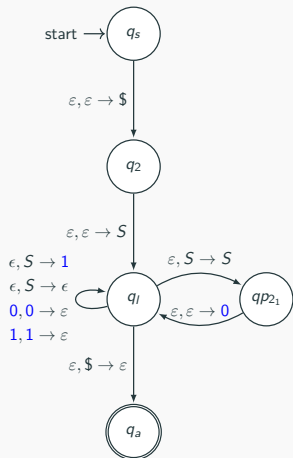


$$S \rightarrow 0S|1|\epsilon$$

Do the same thing for  $S \rightarrow 1$  and  $S \rightarrow \epsilon$



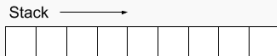
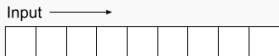
# Convert a CFG to a PDA I



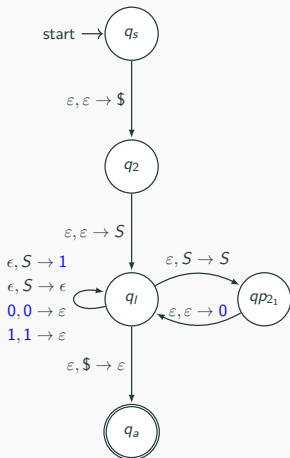
$$S \rightarrow 0S|1|\epsilon$$

If we see a non-terminal symbol on the stack, then we can cross that symbol from the input.

Got to add transitions to do that.



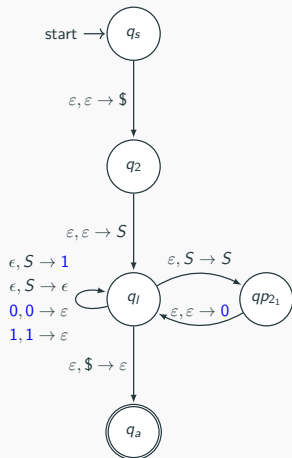
# Convert a CFG to a PDA I



$$S \rightarrow 0S|1|\epsilon$$

Let's go over the operation again:

# Convert a CFG to a PDA I

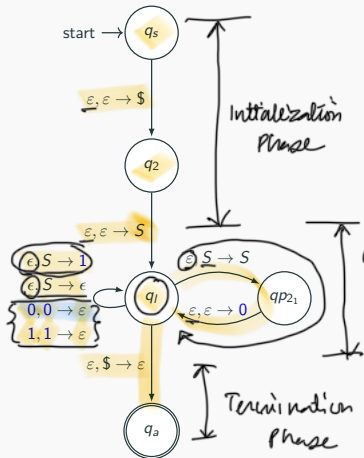


$$S \rightarrow 0S|1|\epsilon$$

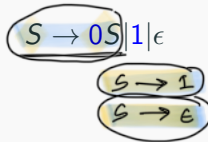
Let's go over the operation again:

- Does this automata accept **001**?

# Convert a CFG to a PDA I



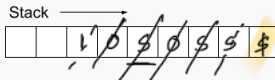
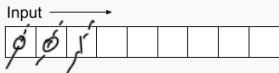
0S



Let's go over the operation again:

- Does this automata accept 001?
- Does this automata accept 010?

001 Accepted!



## Convert a CFG to a PDA II

Let's do a harder example:

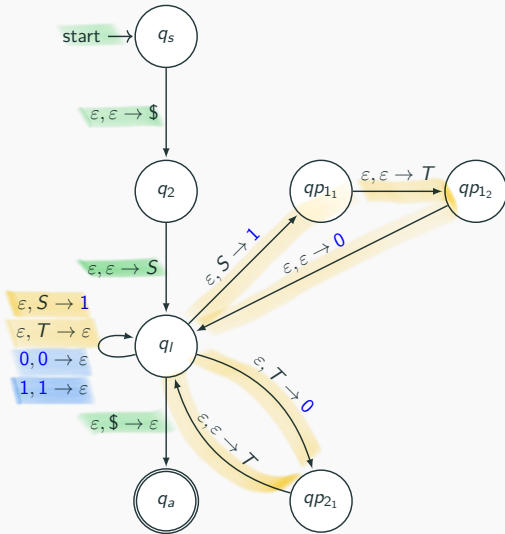
(DIY)

$$S \rightarrow 0T1|1$$

$$T \rightarrow T0|\epsilon$$



# Convert a CFG to a PDA II

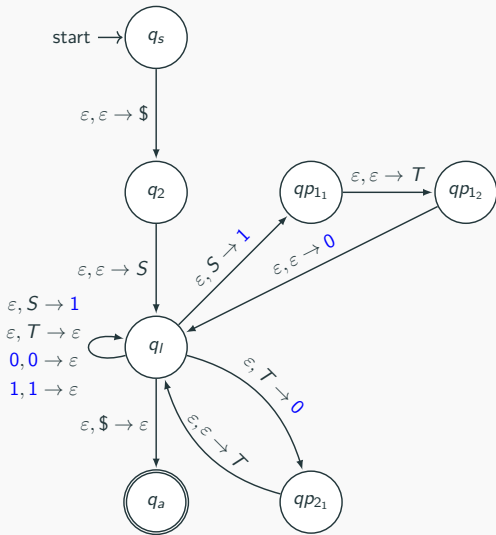


$$S \rightarrow 0T1|1$$

$$T \rightarrow T0|\epsilon$$

The goal of our PDA is to construct the string within the stack and pop off the leftmost terminals when we read those terminals on the input string.

## Convert a CFG to a PDA II

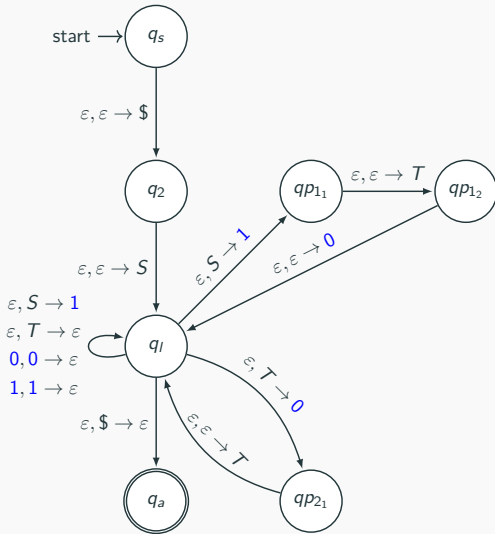


$S \rightarrow 0T1|1$

$T \rightarrow T0|\epsilon$

- First we need to mark the start of the stack.
- Then we put the start variable on the stack.

# Convert a CFG to a PDA II

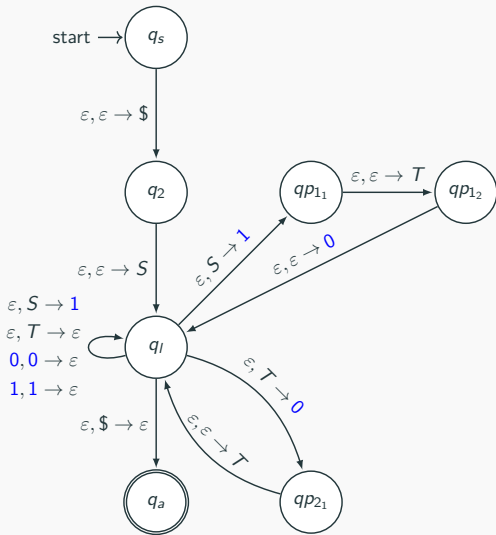


$$S \rightarrow 0T1|1$$

$$T \rightarrow T0|\epsilon$$

- We create a loop for each production rule.
- If we read a terminal that matches the input we pop it.

# Convert a CFG to a PDA II



$$S \rightarrow 0T1|1$$

$$T \rightarrow T0|\epsilon$$

Computation ends when all the variables/terminals have been popped off the stack and the input is empty.

## Determinism in Context-Free Languages

As you remember, deterministic finite automata (DFAs) and nondeterministic finite automata (NFAs) are equivalent in language recognition power.

Not so for PDAs. The previous PDA could not be completed using a deterministic PDA because we need to know where the middle of the input string is for determinism!

$L = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  can be modeled with a deterministic-PDA.

Learn more in CS 475 (Beyond the scope of this class.)

## Closure properties of CFLs

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$G_1 = (V_1, T, P_1, S_1)$  and  $G_2 = (V_2, T, P_2, S_2)$

**Assumption:**  $V_1 \cap V_2 = \emptyset$ , that is, non-terminals are not shared

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### Theorem

*CFLs are closed under union.  $L_1, L_2$  CFLs implies  $L_1 \cup L_2$  is a CFL.*

### Theorem

*CFLs are closed under concatenation.  $L_1, L_2$  CFLs implies  $L_1 \cdot L_2$  is a CFL.*

### Theorem

*CFLs are closed under Kleene star.*

*If  $L$  is a CFL  $\implies L^*$  is a CFL.*



# Closure Properties of CFLs- Union

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*CFLs are closed under union.  $L_1, L_2$  CFLs implies  $L_1 \cup L_2$  is a CFL.*

$$L_1 = L(G_1)$$

$$L_2 = L(G_2)$$

$L_1 \cup L_2$  is CFL!

$\Leftrightarrow \exists G \text{ CFG} \ni L(G) = L_1 \cup L_2$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{G}: \quad & V = V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \{S\} \\ & T = T \\ & P = P_1, P_2, S \rightarrow S_1, S \rightarrow S_2 \\ & S = S \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_1: \quad & S_1 \rightarrow \square \\ P_2: \quad & S_2 \rightarrow \square \\ \text{Introduction:} \quad & S \rightarrow S_1 \\ & S \rightarrow S_2 \end{aligned}$$

# Closure Properties of CFLs- Concatenation

## Theorem

*CFLs are closed under concatenation.  $L_1, L_2$  CFLs implies  $L_1 \cdot L_2$  is a CFL.*

$V = \dots$

$T = \dots$

$P = \dots, S \rightarrow S_1 \cdot S_2$

$S = \dots$

# Closure Properties of CFLs- Kleene star

## Theorem

CFLs are closed under Kleene star.

$$G_1 = (V_1, T, P_1, S_1)$$

If  $L$  is a CFL  $\implies L^*$  is a CFL.

$$V = V_1 \cup \{S\}$$

$$T = T$$

$$P = P_1, \quad \underline{S \rightarrow S_1 S \quad S \rightarrow S_1 S \quad S \rightarrow \epsilon}$$

$$S = S$$

## Bad news: Canonical non-CFL

### Theorem

$L = \{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  is not context-free.

Proof based on pumping lemma for CFLs. See supplemental for the proof.

•  $\{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  is a CFL! ✓

↳ non-regular

↳ context-free

# More bad news: CFL not closed under intersection

## Theorem

CFLs are not closed under intersection.

$$L_1 = \{a^n b^n c^m \mid n, m \geq 0\} : \text{CFL}$$

Counter example:  $L_2 = \{a^m b^n c^n \mid n, m \geq 0\} : \text{CFL}$

$$L = L_1 \cap L_2 = \{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\}$$

not CFL!

# Even more bad news: CFL not closed under complement

Theorem (Simple)

CFLs are **not** closed under complement.

$L_1$  and  $L_2$  are CFL!

$\underline{L} = L_1 \cap L_2$   
CFL?  
NO

But  $L_1 \cap L_2 = \overline{\overline{L_1} \cup \overline{L_2}}$  (De-Morgan's Rule)

BYOC: Let  $\overline{L_1}$  and  $\overline{L_2}$  be

CFL! ← CFL

⇒

$L_1 \cap L_2 =$   
CFL

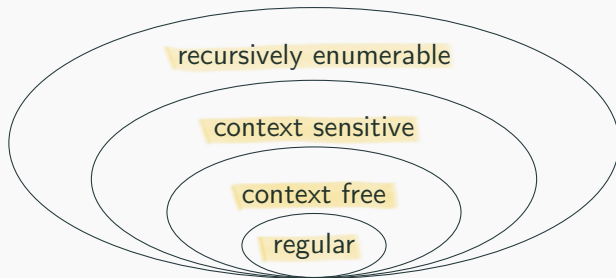
$\overline{L_1} \cup \overline{L_2}$   
CFL CFL

CFL (Prev. Theorem)

But

⇒ contradiction! ⇒ Theorem!

## The more you know!



We're making our way up the Chomsky hierarchy!

**Next stop:** context-sensitive, and decidable languages.

## Parse trees and ambiguity

---

(RIY, not on the midterm)



# Parse Trees or Derivation Trees

A tree to represent the derivation  $S \rightsquigarrow^* w$ .

- Rooted tree with root labeled  $S$
- Non-terminals at each internal node of tree
- Terminals at leaves
- Children of internal node indicate how non-terminal was expanded using a production rule

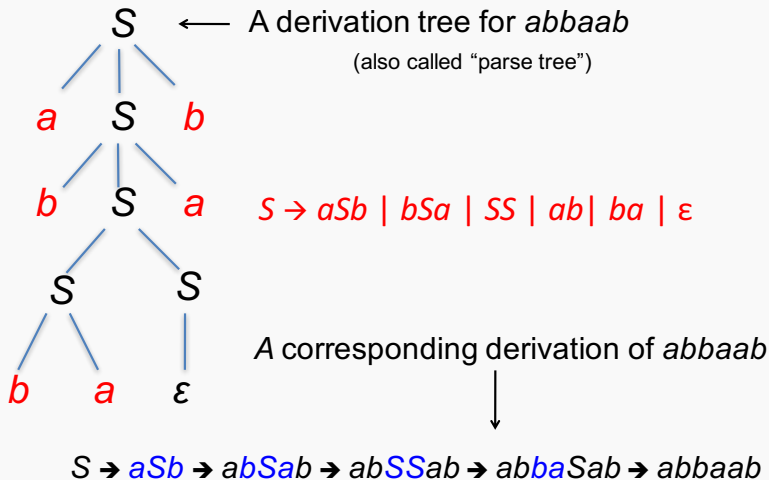
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A picture is worth a thousand words

## Example

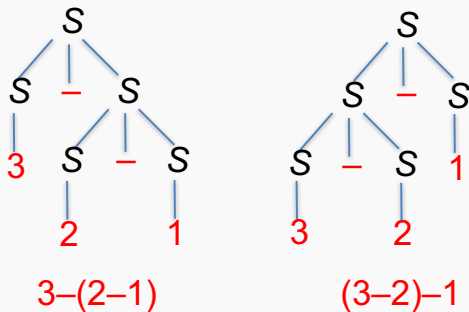


# Ambiguity in CFLs

## Definition

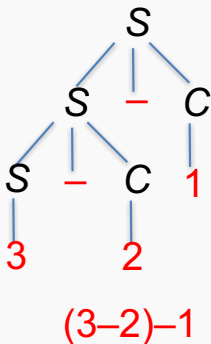
A CFG  $G$  is **ambiguous** if there is a string  $w \in L(G)$  with two different parse trees. If there is no such string then  $G$  is **unambiguous**.

**Example:**  $S \rightarrow S - S \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid 3$



## Ambiguity in CFLs

- Original grammar:  $S \rightarrow S - S \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid 3$
- Unambiguous grammar:  
 $S \rightarrow S - C \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid 3$   
 $C \rightarrow 1 \mid 2 \mid 3$



The grammar forces a parse corresponding to left-to-right evaluation.

# Inherently ambiguous languages

## Definition

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**Example:**  $L = \{a^n b^m c^k \mid n = m \text{ or } m = k\}$

- Given a grammar  $G$  it is **undecidable** to check whether  $L(G)$  is inherently ambiguous. No algorithm!



## Supplemental: Why $a^n b^n c^n$ is not CFL

---

## You are bound to repeat yourself...

$$L = \{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\}.$$

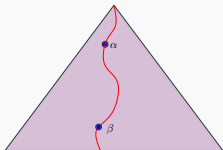
- For the sake of contradiction assume that there exists a grammar:  
     $G$  a CFG for  $L$ .
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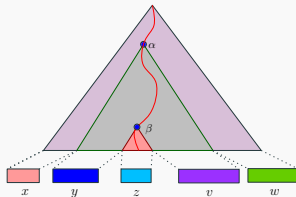
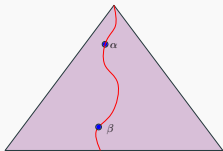
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     $G$  a CFG for  $L$ .
- $T_i$ : minimal parse tree in  $G$  for  $a^i b^i c^i$ .
- $h_i = \text{height}(T_i)$ : Length of longest path from root to leaf in  $T_i$ .
- For any integer  $t$ , there must exist an index  $j(t)$ , such that  $h_{j(t)} > t$ .
- There an index  $j$ , such that  $h_j > (2 * \# \text{ variables in } G)$ .

## Repetition in the parse tree...

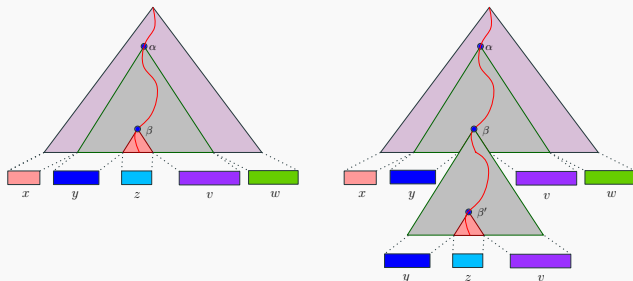


## Repetition in the parse tree...



$$xyzvw = a^j b^j c^j$$

## Repetition in the parse tree...



$$xyzvw = a^j b^j c^j \implies xy^2zv^2w \in L$$

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- We know:

$$xyzvw = a^j b^j c^j$$

$$|y| + |v| > 0.$$

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- Similarly, not possible that  $v$  contains both  $b$  and  $c$ .
- If  $y$  contains only  $as$ , and  $v$  contains only  $bs$ , then...  
 $\#_{(a)}(\tau) \neq \#_{(c)}(\tau)$ .  
Not possible.

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Similarly, not possible that  $y$  contains only  $bs$ , and  $v$  contains only  $cs$ .
- Must be that  $\tau \notin L$ . A contradiction.

## We conclude...

### Lemma

The language  $L = \{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  is not CFL (i.e., there is no CFG for it).