

# Chap. 5 Context-Free Grammars

## 5.1 Context-Free Grammars

### 5.1.1 An Informal Example

*madamimadam*      “Madam, I’m Adam”

A string  $w$  is **palindrome**, if and only if  $w = w^R$ .

Palindromes over  $\{0, 1\}$

**basis:**                     $\varepsilon$ , 0, and 1 are palindromes.

**induction:**            If  $w$  is a palindrome, so are  $0w0$  and  $1w1$ .

No other string is palindrome.

Context-Free Grammar

1.  $P \rightarrow \varepsilon$
2.  $P \rightarrow 0$
3.  $P \rightarrow 1$
4.  $P \rightarrow 0P0$
5.  $P \rightarrow 1P1$

### 5.1.2 Definition of Context-Free Grammars

A quadruple  $G = (N, T, P, S)$  is a **context-free grammar**, if

1.  $N$  is a **finite set of variables (nonterminals, syntactic categories)**,
2.  $T$  is a **finite set of terminal symbols**,  
where  $N \cap T = \emptyset$ .

3.  $P$  is a **finite set of productions (or rules)**,  
where each production is a pair  $(A, \alpha) \in P$ , written  $A \rightarrow \alpha \in P$ ,

$A \in N$                       **left part (head) of production**

$\alpha \in (N \cup T)^*$ ,      **right part (body) of production**

4.  $S \in N$  is a **distinguished variable, called start (axiom) symbol**.

#### Example 5.2

$$G_{pal} = (\{P\}, \{0, 1\}, \{P \rightarrow \varepsilon, P \rightarrow 0, P \rightarrow 1, P \rightarrow 0P0, P \rightarrow 1P1, P\})$$

We write  $A \rightarrow \alpha_1 \mid \dots \mid \alpha_n \in P$  instead of  $A \rightarrow \alpha_1, \dots, A \rightarrow \alpha_n \in P$ .

#### Example 5.2'                      Compact Notations for Productions

$$G_{pal} = (\{P\}, \{0, 1\}, \{P \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 0P0 \mid 1P1\}, P)$$

**Example 5.3'** regular expressions over  $\{a, b, 0, 1\}$ 

$$E \rightarrow E + E \mid EE \mid E^* \mid (E) \mid B \quad \text{induction}$$

$$B \rightarrow \underline{\varepsilon} \mid \underline{\emptyset} \mid \mathbf{a} \mid \mathbf{b} \mid \mathbf{0} \mid \mathbf{1} \quad \text{basis}$$

Note that  $\underline{\varepsilon}$  is not the *empty string*

but a *symbol* denoting empty string for regular expression.

$$N = \{E, B\} \quad T = \{\underline{\varepsilon}, \underline{\emptyset}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}, +, *, (, )\}$$

**Example 5.3'** regular expression revisited

$$E \rightarrow E + E \mid EE \mid E^* \mid (E) \mid \underline{\varepsilon} \mid \underline{\emptyset} \mid \mathbf{a} \mid \mathbf{b} \mid \mathbf{0} \mid \mathbf{1}$$

**Example 5.3 식** (Expressions in the text p. 174)

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. 식 $\rightarrow$ 식 + 식 | 5. 문자 $\rightarrow$ <b>a</b> |
| 2. 식 $\rightarrow$ 식 * 식 | 6. 문자 $\rightarrow$ <b>b</b> |
| 3. 식 $\rightarrow$ ( 식 ) | 7. 수 $\rightarrow$ <b>0</b>  |
| 4. 식 $\rightarrow$ 문자    | 8. 수 $\rightarrow$ <b>1</b>  |
| 4'. 식 $\rightarrow$ 수    |                              |

### 5.1.3 Derivation Using a Grammar

Let  $\alpha, \gamma \in (N \cup T)^*$  and  $B \in N$ , and  $B \rightarrow \beta \in P$  be a **production**.

We say string  $\alpha B \gamma$  **directly derives**  $\alpha \beta \gamma$  in CFG  $G$ , written

$\alpha B \gamma \Rightarrow_G \alpha \beta \gamma$ , we may omit  $G$  when it is understood,  $\alpha B \gamma \Rightarrow \alpha \beta \gamma$ .

Note that  $\rightarrow \subseteq N \times (N \cup T)^*$ . But we can extend  $\rightarrow \subseteq (N \cup T)^* \times (N \cup T)^*$ .

$\rightarrow, \Rightarrow \subseteq (N \cup T)^* \times (N \cup T)^* \rightarrow$  and  $\Rightarrow$  are **binary relation on**  $(N \cup T)^*$ .

$\rightarrow \subseteq \Rightarrow \Rightarrow$  is an **induced** binary relation from  $\rightarrow$ .

Note that  $\rightarrow$  is **finite** but  $\Rightarrow$  is **infinite**.  $\Rightarrow$  is an **extension** of  $\rightarrow$ .

**Recursive definition of  $\Rightarrow^n$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ .**

1.  $\alpha \Rightarrow^0 \alpha, \forall \alpha \in (N \cup T)^*$ . **basis**

2. For  $n \geq 1$ , if  $\alpha \Rightarrow^{n-1} \beta$ , and  $\beta \Rightarrow \gamma$ , then  $\alpha \Rightarrow^n \gamma$ . **recursion**

**Definition of  $\Rightarrow^*$ .**

$\Rightarrow^* = \cup_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0} \Rightarrow^i$ . **reflexive transitive closure of  $\Rightarrow$ .**

We say  $\alpha$  **derives**  $\beta$ , if  $\alpha \Rightarrow^* \beta$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in (N \cup T)^*$ .

We say  $\alpha$  is a **sentential form**(5.1.6) of  $G$ , if  $S \Rightarrow^* \alpha$  for some  $\alpha \in (N \cup T)^*$ .

We say  $w$  is a **sentence** of  $G$ , if  $S \Rightarrow^* w$  for some  $w \in T^*$ .

The **language** of  $G$ (5.1.5), denoted  $L(G)$ , is  $L(G) = \{w \in T^* \mid S \Rightarrow^* w\}$ .

A language  $L$  is **context-free**, if there is a cfg  $G$  such that  $L = L(G)$ .

### **Notational conventions for CFG**

$a, b, c, \dots \in T$	<b>terminal symbols</b>
$A, B, C, \dots \in N$	<b>variable symbols</b>
$X, Y, Z, \dots \in N \cup T$	<b>general symbols</b>
$x, y, z, \dots \in T^*$	<b>terminal strings</b>
$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots \in (N \cup T)^*$	<b>general strings</b>

## ***Derivation of CFG is nondeterministic***

1. Which variable to be replaced

***leftmost vs. rightmost***

2. Which right hand side of the rule to be replaced

**$B \rightarrow \beta \mid \beta'$** .

### ***5.1.4 Leftmost and Rightmost Derivations***

***Leftmost derivation,  $\Rightarrow_{lm}$ , to replace leftmost variable***

$$S \Rightarrow_{lm}^* \mathbf{x}B\gamma \Rightarrow_{lm} \mathbf{x}\beta\gamma \Rightarrow_{lm}^* \mathbf{xy}\gamma \Rightarrow_{lm}^* \mathbf{xyz}$$

where  $x, y, z \in T^*$ ,  $\gamma \in (N \cup T)^*$ ,  $B \rightarrow \beta \in P$ .

***Rightmost derivation,  $\Rightarrow_{rm}$ , to replace rightmost variable***

$$S \Rightarrow_{rm}^* \alpha\mathbf{B}z \Rightarrow_{rm} \alpha\mathbf{\beta}z \Rightarrow_{rm}^* \alpha\mathbf{yz} \Rightarrow_{rm}^* \mathbf{xyz}$$

where  $x, y, z \in T^*$ ,  $\alpha \in (N \cup T)^*$ ,  $B \rightarrow \beta \in P$ .

***Note that  $\Rightarrow_{lm}, \Rightarrow_{rm} \subseteq \Rightarrow$ .  $\Rightarrow_{lm}$  and  $\Rightarrow_{rm}$  are reductions of  $\Rightarrow$ .***

## 5.2 Parse Trees

### 5.2.1 Constructing Parse Trees

Let  $G = (N, \Sigma, P, S)$  be a cfg. The *parse tree* for  $G$  are trees

1. Each *interior node* is labelled by a *variable*  $A \in N$
2. Each *leaf node* is labelled by a *terminal*  $a \in T$  or  $\varepsilon$ .
3. If an interior node is labelled  $A$  and its children are labelled  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  from left to right  
 $A \rightarrow X_1X_2\dots X_n \in P$ .

**Recursive (Top Down) definition (construction) of (rooted) parse tree.**

**Basis**  $(\{S\}, \emptyset, \underline{S})$  is a parse tree.

**Recursion** Let  $(V, E, \underline{S})$  be parse trees and  $A \rightarrow X_1X_2\dots X_n \in P$ .

If the variable  $A$  is a node of  $(V, E, \underline{S})$ . Then

A subtree with root  $A$  is added to  $(V, E, \underline{S})$ .  $(V', E', \underline{S})$  is a new parse tree,

$$V' = V \cup \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\} \text{ and } E' = E \cup \{(A, X_i) \mid 1 \leq \forall i \leq n\}.$$

Two **futures** of a new leaf nodes  $X$ 's in the parse tree  $(V, E, \underline{S})$ .

- i)  $X \in T \rightarrow$  the node  $X$  remains as a **leaf node**.
- ii)  $X \in N \rightarrow$  the node  $X$  will be an **interior node**(**root of a subtree**).

**Recursive**(**Bottum Up**) **definition2**(**construction**) of parse tree.

**Basis**  $\forall a \in T: (\{a\}, \emptyset, a)$  are parse trees(**forest**).

**Recursion** Let  $A \rightarrow X_1X_2...X_n \in P$  where  $1 \leq \forall i \leq n: X_i \in N \cup T$  and

$(V_1, E_1, X_1), (V_2, E_2, X_2), \dots, (V_n, E_n, X_n)$  be parse trees(**forest**).

Then  $(V, E, A)$  is a **new parse tree** where

$V = \{A\} \cup V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_n$  and

$E = \{(A, X_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\} \cup E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n$ .

### 5.2.2 The Yield of a Parse Tree

**Concatenation of leaves of a tree from left to right**

**Sentential form** $(N \cup T)^*$  or **sentence** $(T^*)$ .



### 5.2.3 Inference, Derivation, and Parse Tree

Following four statements are *equivalent* for some *terminal* string  $x \in T^*$ .

- (1)  $A \Rightarrow^* x$ , **Derivation**
- (2)  $A \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x$ , **Leftmost derivation**
- (3)  $A \Rightarrow_{rm}^* x$ , **Rightmost derivation**
- (4) *There is a parse tree with root  $A$  and yield  $x$ .*

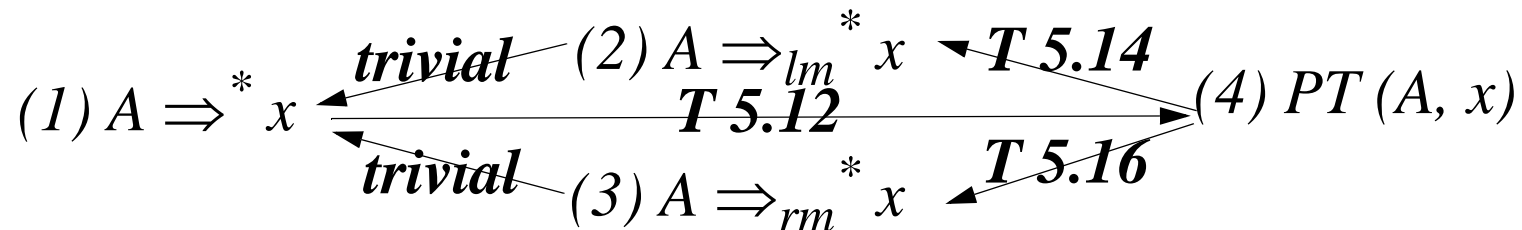
**Proof** (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1), (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) are trivial ( $\Rightarrow_{lm}, \Rightarrow_{rm} \subseteq \Rightarrow$ ).

### 5.2.4 From Inference to Trees

(1)  $\Rightarrow$  (4): **Thm. 5.12**

### 5.2.5 From Trees to Derivations

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (2), (4)  $\Rightarrow$  (3): **Thm 5.14 and 5.16**



**Theorem 5.12** *If  $A \Rightarrow^* x$ , then there is a parse tree with **root**  $A$  and **yield**  $x$*   
**Proof** *Induction on number of derivations*

**Basis**  $A \Rightarrow^1 x, A \rightarrow x \in P. \therefore$  *Parse tree in Fig. 5.8(p187).*

**Induction** *Assume  $A \rightarrow X_1 X_2 \dots X_n \in P, 1 \leq \forall i \leq n: X_i \Rightarrow^{k_i} x_i$ , and  $x = x_1 x_2 \dots x_n$*

1) *If  $X_i \in \Sigma, X_i = x_i, X_i \Rightarrow^{k_i} (\Rightarrow^0; =) x_i. \therefore$  parse tree with leaf  $x_i \in \Sigma$ .*

2) *If  $X_i \in N, X_i \Rightarrow^{k_i} x_i. \therefore$  parse tree with root  $X_i$  and yield  $x_i$ . (IH)*

$\therefore A \Rightarrow X_1 X_2 \dots X_n \Rightarrow^{k_1} x_1 X_2 \dots X_n \Rightarrow^{k_2} x_1 x_2 \dots X_n \Rightarrow^{k_3} \dots \Rightarrow^{k_n} x_1 x_2 \dots x_n.$

$\therefore$  *If  $A \Rightarrow^m x_1 x_2 \dots x_n = x (m \geq 1)$  where  $\sum_n k_i = m - 1$ , then  
**parse tree with root  $A$  and yield  $x$ . (Fig. 5.9; p188)***

**Theorem 5.14** If there is a parse tree with **root**  $A$  and **yield**  $x$ ,  $A \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x$ .

**Proof** Induction on **height** of a tree

**Basis** Parse tree with height 1, in Fig. 5.8.  $A \rightarrow x \in P$ .  $A \Rightarrow_{lm} x$ .

**Induction** Consider a **parse tree** with **root**  $A$ , height  $m$ , and sons  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  from left to right, and **yield**  $x = x_1x_2\dots x_n$ . (Fig. 5.9)

1) If  $X_i \in \Sigma$ ,  $X_i = x_i$ .  $X_i \Rightarrow_{lm}^0 x_i$ .

2) If  $X_i \in N$ ,  $X_i \Rightarrow_{lm}^+ x_i$ . (IH; with height is less than  $m$ )

$A \Rightarrow_{lm} X_1X_2\dots X_n \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x_1X_2\dots X_n \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x_1x_2\dots X_n \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x_1x_2\dots x_n$ .

**Theorem 5.16** If there is a parse tree with **root**  $A$  and **yield**  $x$ ,  $A \Rightarrow_{rm}^* x$ .

**Proof** Induction on **height** of a tree (similar to leftmost derivation)

$A \Rightarrow_{rm} X_1X_2\dots X_n \Rightarrow_{rm}^* X_1X_2\dots x_n \Rightarrow_{rm}^* X_1x_2\dots x_n \Rightarrow_{rm}^* x_1x_2\dots x_n$ .

## 5.3 Application of Context-free Grammars

### Context-free grammars

N. Chomsky      *late 1950's*

*Syntax of natural languages(English, French, ...)*

*Syntax of programming languages*

*ALGOL 60, Pascal, C, Java, Python, ML, ...*

*XML*

**5.3.1 Parsers**(Two grammars)      *read text*

**5.3.2 The Yacc Parser-generator**

*read 프로젝트 참고자료 (lex and yacc)*

**5.3.3 Markup Languages**      *read text*

**5.3.4 XML and Document-Type Languages**      *read text*

## 5.4 Ambiguity in Grammars and Languages

$$G_{Aexp}: E \rightarrow E + E \mid E * E \mid a \mid (E)$$

$$E \Rightarrow_{lm} E + E \Rightarrow_{lm} a + E \Rightarrow_{lm} a + E * E \Rightarrow_{lm} a + a * E \Rightarrow_{lm} a + a * a.$$

$$E \Rightarrow_{lm} E * E \Rightarrow_{lm} E + E * E \Rightarrow_{lm} a + E * E \Rightarrow_{lm} a * E \Rightarrow_{lm} a + a * a.$$

A grammar  $G$  is said to be **ambiguous**, if  $\exists x \in L(G) . \exists$ .

$x$  has more than one **parse trees**(**syntactic structure**),

( $x$  has more than one **leftmost(rightmost)** derivation sequences)

otherwise, **unambiguous**.

### Derivation revisited

We may write  $\alpha A \beta \Rightarrow^r \alpha \gamma \beta$ , if  $r = A \rightarrow \gamma \in P$ .

Recursive extension of derivation with rules(rule string)

$\alpha \Rightarrow^\varepsilon \alpha$ , for  $\alpha \in (N \cup \Sigma)^*$ , and

$\alpha \Rightarrow^{\pi r} \gamma$ , if  $\alpha \Rightarrow^\pi \beta$ ,  $\beta \Rightarrow^r \gamma$  for  $\pi \in P^*$ ,  $r \in P$ ,  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in (N \cup \Sigma)^*$ .

**Parser** of a grammar  $G$ ,

$\forall x \in T^*$ , if  $x \in L(G)$  **syntactic structure**(parse tree),  
otherwise say **NO**.

Is the parser for  $G$  is **deterministic**?

*Not always!*

It is **undecidable** whether  $G$  is **ambiguous** or not.

If  $G$  is **unambiguous**, the parser for  $G$  may be **deterministic** or not.

If  $G$  is **ambiguous**, the parser for  $G$  is **nondeterministic**.

If the parser for  $G$  is **deterministic**,  $G$  is **unambiguous**.

	<b>parser</b>	<b>structure</b>
<b>regular</b>	<b>deterministic</b> (FA)	<b>linear</b>
<b>context-free</b>	<b>nondeterministic</b> (PDA=FA+ <b>stack</b> )	<b>hierarchical</b>

## ***Deterministic parsing of context-free languages***

If  $S \Rightarrow_{lm}^{\pi} x$  for  $x \in T^*$ ,  $\pi \in P^*$  is called the ***left parse*** of the sentence  $x$ .

If  $S \Rightarrow_{rm}^{\pi} x$  for  $x \in T^*$ ,  $\pi^R \in P^*$  is called the ***right parse*** of the sentence  $x$ .

***parse tree  $\Leftrightarrow$  left parse  $\Leftrightarrow$  right parse  $\Leftrightarrow$  syntactic structure***

***left(right) parser: left(right) parse***

***LL(k): Left-to-right scan in Leftmost derivation with k-lookahead symbols***

***LR(k): Left-to-right scan in Rightmost derivation with k-lookahead symbol***

***Left parser***      *same direction in scan and derivation*

***normal order, top-down parsing(LL parsing)***

***Right parser***      *different direction in scan and derivation*

***reversed order, bottom-up parsing(LR, LALR, SLR parsing)***

### **Removing ambiguity in the grammar**

$$G_{Aexp}: E \rightarrow E + E \mid E * E \mid a \mid (E) \quad |G_{Aexp}| = 4+4+2+4 = 14$$

Assume that precedence of  $*$  is higher than that of  $+$ , and  
 $+$  and  $*$  are left associative.

$$\begin{aligned} G_{Uexp}: E &\rightarrow E + T \mid T * F \mid a \mid (E) \\ T &\rightarrow T * F \mid a \mid (E) \\ F &\rightarrow a \mid (E) \end{aligned} \quad |G_{Uexp}| = 14+10+6 = 30$$

$$\begin{aligned} G_{Uexp}': E &\rightarrow E + T \mid T \\ T &\rightarrow T * F \mid F \\ F &\rightarrow a \mid (E) \end{aligned} \quad |G_{Uexp}'| = 6+6+6 = 18$$

$$|G| = \sum_{A \rightarrow \alpha \in P} |A| + |\alpha| = \sum_{A \rightarrow \alpha \in P} |\alpha| + 1 \quad \text{Size of a grammar}$$

$A \rightarrow B$  is called **unit production**, if  $A, B \in N$ .

**reduces the size of grammar but increases the height of the P.T.!**

in yacc,  $G_{Aexp}$  is used with **precenece** and **associativity** of operators



A context free language  $L$  is said to be *inherently ambiguous*,  
if every cfg  $G \ni L = L(G)$  is *ambiguous*.

$L = \{a^n b^n c^m d^m \mid n, m \geq 1\} \cup \{a^n b^m c^m d^n \mid n, m \geq 1\}$  is *inherently ambiguous*.

Consider  $G$ :

$$S \rightarrow AB \mid C$$

$$A \rightarrow aAb \mid ab$$

$$B \rightarrow cBd \mid cd$$

$$C \rightarrow aCd \mid aDd$$

$$D \rightarrow bDc \mid bc$$

and the sentence  $a^n b^n c^n d^n$ .

$$S \Rightarrow_{lm} AB \Rightarrow_{lm}^{A \rightarrow aAb} aAbB \Rightarrow_{lm}^{(A \rightarrow aAb)^{n-2}} a^{n-1} Ab^{n-1} B \Rightarrow_{lm}^{A \rightarrow ab} a^n b^n B$$

$$\Rightarrow_{lm}^{B \rightarrow cBd} a^n b^n cBd \Rightarrow_{lm}^{(B \rightarrow cBd)^{n-2}} a^n b^n c^{n-1} Bd^{n-1} \Rightarrow_{lm}^{B \rightarrow cd} a^n b^n c^n d^n.$$

$$S \Rightarrow_{lm} C \Rightarrow_{lm}^{C \rightarrow aCd} aCd \Rightarrow_{lm}^{(C \rightarrow aCd)^{n-2}} a^{n-1} Cd^{n-1} \Rightarrow_{lm}^{C \rightarrow ad} a^n Dd^n$$

$$\Rightarrow_{lm}^{D \rightarrow bDc} a^n bDcd^n \Rightarrow_{lm}^{(D \rightarrow bDc)^{n-2}} a^n b^{n-1} Dc^{n-1} d^n \Rightarrow_{lm}^{D \rightarrow bc} a^n b^n c^n d^n.$$