

# Chap. 7 Properties of Context-free Languages

## 7.1 Normal Forms for Context-free Grammars

### Context-free grammars

$A \rightarrow \alpha$  where  $A \in N$ ,  $\alpha \in (N \cup T)^*$ .  $|\alpha| \geq 0$ .

### Chomsky Normal Form

$A \rightarrow BC$  or  $A \rightarrow a$  except  $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$  where  $A, B, C \in N$ ,  $a \in T$ .

1. Eliminating useless symbols (non generating and non reachable)
2. Eliminating  $\varepsilon$ -productions (no  $A \rightarrow \varepsilon$  except  $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$ )  $|\alpha| \geq 1$
3. Eliminating unit productions (no  $A \rightarrow B$ )

$A \rightarrow \alpha$  or  $A \rightarrow a$  where  $A \in N$ ,  $\alpha \in (N \cup T)^*$ ,  $|\alpha| \geq 2$ ,  $a \in T$ .

4. Introducing variables for each terminals ( $A_a \rightarrow a$ ,  $\forall a \in T$ )

$A \rightarrow \alpha$  or  $A \rightarrow a$  where  $A \in N$ ,  $\alpha \in N^*$ ,  $|\alpha| \geq 2$ ,  $a \in T$ .

5. Reducing length of RHS to *two*

$A \rightarrow BC$  or  $A \rightarrow a$  except  $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$  where  $A, B, C \in N$ ,  $a \in T$ .

### 7.1.1 Eliminating Useless Symbols

We say  $X \in N \cup T$  is **useful**, if  $S \Rightarrow^* \alpha X \beta \Rightarrow^* w$ ,  $X \in (N \cup T)$ ,  $w \in T^*$ ; **useless** otherwise.

1. We say  $X$  is **generating**, if  $X \Rightarrow^* w$ ,  $w \in T^*$ .

2. We say  $X$  is **reachable**, if  $S \Rightarrow^* \alpha X \beta$ .

1. Eliminate non generating symbols and productions
2. Eliminate non reachable symbols and productions

**Theorem 7.2** Let  $G = (N, T, P, S)$  be a CGF where  $L(G) \neq \emptyset$ .

1. Eliminate **non generating** symbols, and productions in  $G$ ,

$$G_2 = (N_2, T_2, P_2, S).$$

2. Eliminate **non reachable** symbols and productions from  $G_2$ ,

$$G_1 = (N_1, T_1, P_1, S).$$

Then  $G_1$  has no useless symbols, and  $L(G_1) = L(G)$ .

**Theorem 7.4** Finding **generating** symbols

**basis**  $\forall a \in T, a$  is **generating**.

**Rec.**  $\forall A \rightarrow X_1 \dots X_n \in P$ , if  $(1 \leq \forall i \leq n: X_i$  is **generating**) or  $(n = 0)$ ,  
then  $X$  is **generating**.

**Proof**  $\forall X \Rightarrow^* w, w \in T^*$ . (induction on number of steps in algorithm)  
**basis** zero step.  $a \in \Sigma$ .

**Rec.** Consider  $X \Rightarrow \alpha \Rightarrow^{n-1} w, w \in T^*$ .

$X \rightarrow \alpha = X_1 \dots X_n \in P. \quad 1 \leq \forall i \leq n, X_i \Rightarrow^* w_i, w_i \in T^*$  by IH.

$\therefore X \Rightarrow X_1 \dots X_n \Rightarrow^* w_1 \dots w_n = w, w \in \Sigma^*$ .

**Theorem 7.6** Finding **reachable** symbols.

**Basis**  $S$  is **reachable**.  $G_{reach} = (N, E), (A, B) \in E$ , if  $A \rightarrow \alpha B \beta \in P$ .

**Rec.** If  $A \in N$  is **reachable**,  $\forall A \rightarrow X_1 \dots X_n \in P, 1 \leq \forall i \leq n, X_i$  is **reachable**.

**Proof**  $X \in (N \cup T)$  is **reachable**, if  $S \Rightarrow^* \alpha X \beta. G_{reach}^* = (N, E^*)$  from  $S \in N$ .

### 7.1.3 Eliminating $\varepsilon$ -Productions

$A \rightarrow \varepsilon$  is called  $\varepsilon$ -production.  $G$  is  $\varepsilon$ -free, if  $P$  has **no**  $\varepsilon$ -production.

$A$  is **nullable**, iff  $A \Rightarrow^* \varepsilon$ .

**Theorem 7.7** Finding **nullable** symbols

**Basis** If  $A \rightarrow \varepsilon \in P$ ,  $A$  is **nullable**.

**Rec.**  $\forall B \rightarrow C_1 \dots C_k \in P$ : if  $(1 \leq \forall i \leq k) C_i \in N$  is **nullable**, then  $B$  is **nullable**.

**Proof**  $A \Rightarrow^* \varepsilon$ , if and only if,  $A$  is **nullable** in the above **algorithm**.

**(If)** If  $A$  is **nullable** in the above **algorithm**, then  $A \Rightarrow^* \varepsilon \in P$ .  $\therefore$  trivial.

**(Only if)** **induction** on number the shortest derivation to  $\varepsilon$ .

**basis** One step.  $A \rightarrow \varepsilon \in P$ ,  $A \Rightarrow^1 \varepsilon$ .  $\therefore A \Rightarrow^* \varepsilon$ .

**induction** Suppose  $A \Rightarrow^n \varepsilon$  where  $n > 1$  derivations. Then

$$A \Rightarrow B_1 \dots B_k \Rightarrow^+ \varepsilon. \text{ where } 1 \leq \forall i \leq k: B_i \Rightarrow^{<n} \varepsilon.$$

$\therefore 1 \leq \forall i \leq k: B_i$  is **nullable** by IH.

$\therefore A$  is **nullable** in the above **algorithm**.

**Theorem 7.9** Let  $G = (N, T, P, S)$  be a cfg. Then

$\exists G_1 = (N, T, P_1, S)$  is  **$\epsilon$ -free** and  $L(G_1) = L(G) - \{\epsilon\}$ .

$P_1: \forall A \rightarrow X_1 \dots X_n \in P$ , add  $A \rightarrow Z_1 \dots Z_n$  to  $P_1$ .

i) If  $X_i$  is **not nullable**,  $Z_i = X_i$ . (no change!)

ii) If  $X_i$  is **nullable**,  $Z_i = (X_i \mid \epsilon)$ . (if  $m$ -nullable symbols,  $2^m$  rules)

iii) **remove**  $A \rightarrow \epsilon$ , if any. (if  $m=n$ , upper bound  $2^{n-1}$ , rule)

**Proof**  $A \Rightarrow_{G_1}^* w$  if and only if  $A \Rightarrow_G^* w$  and  $w \neq \epsilon$  ( $w \in T^+$ ).

(If) If  $A \Rightarrow_G^k w$  and  $w \neq \epsilon$ ,  $A \Rightarrow_{G_1}^* w$ .

**basis** If  $A \Rightarrow_G w$  and  $w \neq \epsilon$ , and  $w \in \Sigma^+$ , then  $A \rightarrow w \in P_1$ .  $\therefore A \Rightarrow_{G_1}^* w$ .

**induction**  $A \Rightarrow_G X_1 \dots X_n \Rightarrow_G^{k-1} w = w_1 \dots w_n$ ,  $\forall X_i \Rightarrow_G^* w_i$  and  $w \neq \epsilon$ .

If  $w_i \neq \epsilon$ ,  $X_i \Rightarrow_{G_1}^* w_i$  by IH ( $X_i \Rightarrow_G^{<k} x_i$ ).

If  $w_i = \varepsilon$ ,  $X_i$  is nullable.

$$\therefore A \Rightarrow_G X_1 \dots X_{i-1} \mathbf{X_i} X_{i+1} \dots X_n \Rightarrow_G^* w_1 \dots w_{i-1} \mathbf{\varepsilon} w_{i+1} \dots w_n = w.$$

$\exists A \rightarrow X_1 \dots X_{i-1} X_{i+1} \dots X_n \in P_1$  by **construction of  $P_1$** .

$$\therefore \exists A \Rightarrow_{G_1} X_1 \dots X_{i-1} X_{i+1} \dots X_n \Rightarrow_{G_1}^* w_1 \dots w_{i-1} w_{i+1} \dots w_n = w.$$

**(Only if)** If  $A \Rightarrow_{G_1}^k w$ ,  $A \Rightarrow_G^* w$  and  $w \neq \varepsilon$ .

**basis** If  $A \Rightarrow_{G_1} w$ ,  $w \neq \varepsilon$  ( $G_1$  is  $\varepsilon$ -free).

$$A \Rightarrow_G \alpha, \alpha \Rightarrow_G^* w \text{ (\varepsilon-rules only, } |\alpha| \geq |w|)$$

**induction** Assume  $A \Rightarrow_{G_1} Z_1 \dots Z_n \Rightarrow_{G_1}^{k-1} w = x_1 \dots x_n, \forall Z_i \Rightarrow_{G_1}^* x_i$ .

$\exists A \rightarrow Z_1 \dots Z_n \in P_1$  comes from  $A \rightarrow X_1 \dots X_m \in P$ , ( $m \geq n$ ).

$$\therefore A \Rightarrow_G X_1 \dots X_m \Rightarrow_G^* Z_1 \dots Z_n \text{ (\varepsilon-rules only)}$$

$$\Rightarrow_G^* x_1 \dots x_n \text{ and } \forall x_i \neq \varepsilon \quad \text{by IH}(Z_i \Rightarrow_{G_1}^{<k} x_i)$$

$$= x \text{ and } x \neq \varepsilon.$$

### 7.1.4 Eliminating Unit productions

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

$(A, B)$  is called a **unit pair**, if  $A \Rightarrow^* B$ .

**Theorem 7.11** Following algorithm finds exactly **unit pairs**.

**basis**  $(A, A)$  is a **unit pair**.

**induction** If  $(A, B)$  is a **unit pair** and  $B \rightarrow C \in P$ ,  
 $(A, C)$  is a **unit pair**.

**Proof** Number of derivation steps unit pair is found.

**basis** Zero steps.  $A = B$ ,  $(A, A)$  is added in **basis**.

**induction** Assume  $A \Rightarrow^n C$ . Then  $\exists B, A \Rightarrow^{n-1} B \Rightarrow C$ .

$\therefore (A, C)$  is in unit pair(IH) and the **induction** rule  $B \rightarrow C \in P$   
 adds  $(A, B)$  in unit pair.

**Theorem 7.13** Let  $G = (N, \Sigma, P, S)$  be a cfg. Then

$\exists G_1 = (N, \Sigma, P_1, S)$  that has **no unit productions** and  $L(G_1) = L(G)$ ,

$P_1 = \{A \rightarrow \alpha \mid (A, B) \text{ is a unit pair, } B \rightarrow \alpha \in P, \alpha \notin N\}$ .

**Proof**  $A \Rightarrow_G^* w$  if and only if  $A \Rightarrow_{G_1}^* w$ .

If  $A \rightarrow \alpha \in P_1, \alpha \notin N. \therefore$  Non-unit productions.

(If) If  $A \rightarrow \alpha \in P_1, A \rightarrow \alpha \in P$  or  $A \Rightarrow_G^* B \Rightarrow_G \alpha$ .

$\therefore$  If  $A \rightarrow \alpha \in P_1, A \Rightarrow_G^* \alpha$ .

$\therefore$  If  $A \Rightarrow_{G_1}^* w, A \Rightarrow_G^* w$ .

(Only if) If  $A \Rightarrow_G^* w, A \Rightarrow_{lm} G^* w$  in  $G$ .

Assume  $A = \alpha_0 \Rightarrow_{lm} \alpha_1 \Rightarrow_{lm} \alpha_2 \dots \Rightarrow_{lm} \alpha_n = w$  in  $G$ .

$0 \leq \forall i < n,$

1) If  $\alpha_i \Rightarrow_{lm} \alpha_{i+1}$  by non unit production in  $G, \alpha_i \Rightarrow_{lm} G_1 \alpha_{i+1}$ .

2) If  $\alpha_i \Rightarrow_{lm} \alpha_{i+1}$  in  $G$  by unit production,



$i < \exists k, \exists i \leq \forall j < k, \alpha_j \Rightarrow_{lm} G \alpha_{j+1}$  by unit productions  
and finally  $\alpha_k \Rightarrow_{lm} \alpha_{k+1}$  by non unit production

$\therefore \alpha_i \Rightarrow_{lm} G_1^* \alpha_{k+1}$ .

If  $A \Rightarrow_{lm} G^* w, A \Rightarrow_{lm} G_1^* w$ .

### 7.1.5 Chomsky Normal Form(CNF)

1.  $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \in P$  or
2.  $A \rightarrow BC \in P$  where  $B, C \in N$  or
3.  $A \rightarrow a \in P$  where  $a \in \Sigma$ .

**Theorem 7.16** Let  $G = (N, T, P, S)$  be a CFG. There is a CFG  $G_1$  such that  $G_1$  is CNF and  $L(G) = L(G_1)$ .

#### Proof

1. Eliminate useless symbols and productions.
2. Eliminate  $\varepsilon$ -rules.

### 3. Eliminate unit production.

No  $\varepsilon$ -productions and no unit productions.

If  $\varepsilon \in L(G)$ ,  $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \in P_1$ .

$A \rightarrow a \in P$ , CNF.

$A \rightarrow X_1 \dots X_n \in P$  where  $n \geq 2$ ,  $X_i \in N \cup T$ .

$\forall X_i \in \Sigma$ ,  $B_a \rightarrow a (=X_i) \in P_1$  and replace  $X_i$  by  $B_a$ .

$A \rightarrow C_1 \dots C_n \in P$  where  $n \geq 2$ ,  $C_i \in N$ .

If  $n = 2$ , CNF.

$A \rightarrow C_1 \dots C_n \in P$  where  $n \geq 3$ ,  $C_i \in N$ .

$A \rightarrow C_1 D_1 \in P_1$ ,

$D_1 \rightarrow C_2 D_2 \in P_1$ ,

...

$D_{n-3} \rightarrow C_{n-2} D_{n-2} \in P_1$ ,

$D_{n-2} \rightarrow C_{n-1} C_n \in P_1$ .

**Proof**  $G_1$  is CNF is trivial.

1) If  $A \rightarrow X_1 \dots X_k \in P$ ,  $A \Rightarrow_{G_1}^+ X_1 \dots X_k$ .

If  $A \Rightarrow_G^* w \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $A \Rightarrow_{G_1}^* w \in \Sigma^*$ .

2) If  $A \Rightarrow_{G_1}^* w \in \Sigma^*$  and consider the parse tree of  $w$  in  $G_1$ .

Convert the parse tree into the parse tree of  $w$  in  $G$ .

i)  $A \rightarrow C_1 D_1, \dots, D_{n-3} \rightarrow C_{n-2} D_{n-2}, D_{n-2} \rightarrow C_{n-1} C_n$  into

$A \rightarrow C_1 \dots C_{n-1} C_n$ . (Fig. 7.4)

ii)  $B_a \rightarrow a$  into  $a$

$\therefore L(G) = L(G_1)$ .

See Ex. 7.15 in p273. ‘

**Regular**(type 3) grammar(normal form)

$A \rightarrow aB \text{ or } b \quad A, B \in N, a, b \in T.$       **right linear**

$A \rightarrow aB \mid aC$       **non-deterministic!**

$\nexists A \rightarrow aB \mid aC, \text{ if } B \neq C.$       **deterministic!**

$A \rightarrow Ba \text{ or } b \quad A, B \in N, a, b \in T.$       **left linear**

**(Extended) regular**(type 3) grammar

$A \rightarrow xB \text{ or } y \quad A, B \in N, x, y \in T^*.$       **extended right linear**

$A \rightarrow Bx \text{ or } y \quad A, B \in N, x, y \in T^*.$       **extended left linear**

**Context-free**(type 2) grammar(Chomsky's normal form)

$A \rightarrow BC \text{ or } a \quad A, B, C \in N, a \in T.$

**Context free**(type 2) grammar(extended)

$A \rightarrow \alpha \quad A \in N, \alpha \in (N \cup T)^*.$

## 7.2 The Pumping Lemma for context-free Languages

### 7.2.1 The size of parse tree

**Theorem 7.17** Let  $G = (N, T, P, S)$  be a Chomsky Normal Form context-free grammar and consider a parse tree for  $w \in L(G)$ . If  $n$  is the length (# of edges) of the longest path in the parse tree,  $|w| \leq 2^{n-1}$ .

**Proof** Induction on  $n$ ,

i)  $n = 1$ ,  $w \in \Sigma$ ,  $|w| = 1 \leq 2^{1-1} = 1$ .

ii)  $n > 1$ ,  $S \rightarrow AB$  is the root of the tree.

Two subtrees with roots  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively,

and assume  $A \Rightarrow^* w_a$ ,  $B \Rightarrow^* w_b$ , and  $w = w_a w_b$ .

By induction hypothesis,  $|w_a| \leq 2^{n-2}$  and  $|w_b| \leq 2^{n-2}$ .

$\therefore |w| \leq 2^{n-2} + 2^{n-2} = 2^{n-1}$ .

**Binary**( $A \rightarrow BC$ ) **tree with unary leaf**( $A \rightarrow a$ ).  $\therefore |w| \leq 2^{n-1}$ .

## 7.2.2 Statement of the pumping Lemma

### Theorem 7.18 (The pumping lemma for context-free languages)

Let  $L$  be a CFL.  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ .  $\exists$ . if  $\forall z \in L$  and  $|z| \geq n$ , then we write  $z = uvwxy$

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1) $ vwx  \leq n$ ,                      | the <b>first pump</b>  |
| 2) $vx \neq \varepsilon$ ,               | <b>nontrivial pump</b> |
| 3) $\forall i \geq 0, uv^iwx^iy \in L$ . | <b>pump</b>            |

### Proof

Since  $L$  is CFL,  $\exists G = (N, T, P, S)$  where  $L = L(G)$  and  $G$  is CNF.

Choose  $n = 2^{|N|}$  and

suppose the longest path  $P$  of the parse tree for  $z \in L$  is  $k+1$ .

$$n = 2^{|N|} \leq |z| \leq 2^{(k+1)-1} = 2^k. \text{ (Def. of } n, \text{ and Thm. 7.17)}$$

$$\therefore |N| \leq k.$$

Consider the longest path  $(k+1)$ ,  $(A_0, A_1, \dots, A_k, a)$

$A_0 = S, 0 \leq \forall i \leq k: A_i \in N, a \in T.$  (Fig. 7.5)

$\therefore$  Since  $|N| \leq k, 1 \leq \exists i < \exists j \leq k .\exists. A_i = A_j = A.$

Assume  $S \Rightarrow^* uA_i y \Rightarrow^* uvA_j xy \Rightarrow^* uvwxy.$  (Fig. 7.6)

Note that  $\underline{A} = A_i \Rightarrow^* vA_j x = \underline{vAx}$  or  $\underline{A} = A_j \Rightarrow^* \underline{w}$ , and  $S \Rightarrow^* u\underline{A}y.$

$\therefore$  (1)  $S \Rightarrow^* uAy \Rightarrow^* uwy = uv^0wx^0y;$  or

(2) Assume  $S \Rightarrow^* uAy \Rightarrow^* uv^{i-1}wx^{i-1}y$  for  $i \geq 1,$  and

$S \Rightarrow^* uAy \Rightarrow^* uvAxy \Rightarrow^* uvv^{i-1}wxx^{i-1}y = uv^iwx^i y.$  (Fig. 7.7)

$\therefore S \Rightarrow^* uv^iwx^i y$  for  $i \geq 0.$  3) **pumping**( $xy^i z$  in RL's)

Since  $G$  is useful and  $\varepsilon$ -free(CNF)  $v \neq \varepsilon$  and  $x \neq \varepsilon, \therefore vx \neq \varepsilon.$

2) **nonempty pumping**( $y \neq \varepsilon$  in RL's)

We can select  $A_i$  to be the closest to the bottom of the tree,  $k - i \leq |N|,$

Since the length of the longest path in  $A_i$ -subtree  $\leq |N| + 1,$

$\therefore |vwx| \leq n$  (Thm. 7.17) 1) **first pumping**( $|xy| \leq n$  in RL's)

### 7.2.3 Application of the Pumping Lemma for CFL's

1. Pick  $L$  that we want to prove that  $L$  is **not** context-free.
2. “**Adversary**” pick  $n$  (any possible  $n$ )
3. Pick  $z$ , we may use  $n$  as a parameter
4. “**Adversary**” break  $z$  into  $uvwxy$   $\exists$ .  $|vwx| \leq n$ ,  $vx \neq \epsilon$ .
5. To “win” the game, find  $i$   $\exists$ .  $uv^iwx^iy \notin L$ .

Context-free languages cannot match **more than two** groups of symbols for equality or inequality.

**Example 7.19**  $L = \{0^n 1^n 2^n \mid n \geq 1\}$

Let  $K$  be the adversary number, and  $z = 0^n 1^n 2^n$ ,

For all breaks of  $z$  into  $uvwxy$   $\exists$ .  $|vwx| \leq K$ ,  $vx \neq \epsilon$ .

(1)  $u = 0^{n-i}$ ,  $vwx = 0^i 1^{n-i}$ , and  $y = 1^i 2^n$ . Since  $vx \neq \epsilon$ ,  $uwy \notin L$ .

(2)  $u = 0^n 1^{n-i}$ ,  $vwx = 1^i 2^{n-i}$ , and  $y = 2^i$ . Since  $vx \neq \epsilon$ ,  $uwy \notin L$ .



*Two groups match cannot be interleaved.*

**Example 7.20**  $L = \{0^i 1^j 2^i 3^j \mid i, j \geq 1\}$

Let  $n$  be the adversary number and  $z = 0^n 1^n 2^n 3^n$ .

For all breaks of  $z$  into  $uvwxy$  . $\exists$ .  $|vwx| \leq n$ ,  $vx \neq \varepsilon$ ,

$vwy$ : substring of at most two consecutive symbols

Nontrivial ( $vx \neq \varepsilon$ ) pumping of  $v$  and  $x$

Less than or equal to  $n$  symbols that is in  $vwx$ .

*CFL's cannot match two strings of arbitrary length*

**Exercise 7.21**  $L_{ww} = \{ww \mid w \in (0+1)^*\}$  vs.  $L_{ww^R} = \{ww^R \mid w \in (0+1)^*\}$

Consider  $z = 0^n 1^n 0^n 1^n$ .

### 7.3 Closure properties of Context Free Languages

Context-free languages are closed under

1. union,
2. concatenation,
3. closure,
4. substitution,
5. reversal

Let  $G_A = (N_A, T_A, P_A, S_A)$  and  $G_B = (N_B, T_B, P_B, S_B)$  be cfg's. Then

$$G_1 = (N_A \cup N_B \cup \{S_1\}, \Sigma_A \cup \Sigma_B, P_A \cup P_B \cup \{S_1 \rightarrow S_A \mid S_B\}, S_1)$$

$$\text{.}\exists. L(G_1) = L(G_A) \cup L(G_B),$$

$$G_2 = (N_A \cup N_B \cup \{S_2\}, T_A \cup T_B, P_A \cup P_B \cup \{S_2 \rightarrow S_A S_B\}, S_2)$$

$$\text{.}\exists. L(G_2) = L(G_A)L(G_B),$$

$$G_3 = (N_A \cup \{S_3\}, \Sigma_A, P_A \cup \{S_3 \rightarrow S_A S_3 \mid \varepsilon\}, S_3) \text{.}\exists. L(G_3) = L(G_A)^*,$$

$$G_5 = (N_A, \Sigma_A, \{A \rightarrow \alpha^R \mid A \rightarrow \alpha \in P\}, S_A) \text{.}\exists. L(G_5) = L(G_A)^R.$$

**Context-free language is *not* closed under *intersection***

**Example 7.26** We know that  $L = \{0^n 1^n 2^n \mid n \geq 1\}$  is not cfl in Ex. 7.19.

Consider

$$L_1 = \{0^n 1^n 2^i \mid n \geq 1, i \geq 1\}$$

$$G_1: S \rightarrow AB$$

$$A \rightarrow 0A1 \mid 01$$

$$B \rightarrow 2B \mid 2.$$

$$L_2 = \{0^i 1^n 2^n \mid n \geq 1, i \geq 1\}$$

$$G_2: S \rightarrow AB$$

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

$$B \rightarrow 1B2 \mid 12.$$

$L_1$  and  $L_2$  are context-free but  $L = L_1 \cap L_2 = \{0^n 1^n 2^n \mid n \geq 1\}$

is not context-free

**counter example**

**Theorem 7.27** *If  $L$  is CFL and  $R$  is regular language, then*

*$L \cap R$  is context-free.*

**Proof** *Let  $P = (Q_P, T, \Gamma, \delta_P, q_P, Z_P, F_P)$  be a PDA,  $L(P) = L$ , and*

*$A = (Q_A, \Sigma, \delta_A, q_A, F_A)$  be a FA,  $L(A) = R$ . Then*

*$P' = (Q_P \times Q_A, T, \Gamma, \delta, (q_P, q_A), Z_P, F_P \times F_A)$  where  $a \in \Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}$  and*

*$\delta((q, p), a, X) = \{((r, s), \gamma) \mid s \in \delta_A^*(p, a), (r, \gamma) \in \delta_P(q, a, X)\}$ .*

*Induction*

*$(q_P, w, Z_P) \vdash^* (q, \varepsilon, \gamma)$  if and only if  $((q_P, q_A), w, Z_P) \vdash^* ((q, p), \varepsilon, \gamma)$   
and  $q \in \delta_A^*(q_A, w)$ .*

**Theorem 7.29** *If  $L$ ,  $L_1$ , and  $L_2$  are CFL's and  $R$  is regular language.*

- 1.  $L - R$  is context-free.*
- 2.  $\bar{L}$  is not (necessary) context-free.*
- 3.  $L_1 - L_2$  is not (necessary) context-free.*

## 7.4 Decision Properties of CFL's

|   |                    |          |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| <i>PDA by empty stack</i> $\Leftrightarrow$ <i>PDA by final state</i> | <b>Thm 6.9, 11</b> | $O(n)$   |
| <i>CFG</i> $\Rightarrow$ <i>PDA</i>                                   | <b>Thm 6.13</b>    | $O(n)$   |
| <i>PDA</i> $\Rightarrow$ <i>CFG</i>                                   | <b>Thm 6.14</b>    | $O(n^3)$ |

|  |            |                     |
|--|------------|---------------------|
| <i>CFG</i> $\Rightarrow$ <i>CNF</i>                                    |            | $O(n^2)$            |
| 1. <i>Detecting reachable and generating symbol</i>                    |            | $O(n)$              |
| <i>Eliminating useless symbols and productions</i>                     |            | $O(n)$              |
| 2. <i>Eliminating <math>\varepsilon</math>-production</i>              |            | $O(2^k)$            |
| <i>where <math>k</math> is maximum length of RHS</i>                   |            | $\therefore O(2^n)$ |
| 3. <i>Eliminating unit productions</i>                                 |            | $O(n^2)$            |
| 4. <i>Replacing terminal symbols by nonterminal symbols</i>            |            | $O(n)$              |
| 5. <i>Breaking length of RHS</i>                                       |            | $O(n)$              |
| $\therefore$ 2' <i>Eliminating <math>\varepsilon</math>-production</i> | $2^2 O(n)$ | $O(n)$              |

### **Membership problem CYK algorithm (Coke, Younger, Kasami)**

Given  $w = a_1 \dots a_n \in T^*$  and a cfg  $G$  in CNF, test if  $w \in L(G)$  or not.

We can compute  $X_{ij} = \{A \in N \mid A \Rightarrow^* a_i \dots a_j\}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$ .

If  $S \in X_{1n}$ ,  $w \in L(G)$ ; otherwise  $w \notin L(G)$ .

How to compute  $X_{ij}$ . (w.l.o.g assume CNF)

**basis**  $X_{ii} = \{A \mid A \rightarrow a_i \in P\}$

**induction** Assume  $A \Rightarrow^* a_i \dots a_j$ . Since  $i < j$ , and CNF( $\epsilon$ -free)

$A \rightarrow BC \in P$  where  $B \Rightarrow^* a_i \dots a_k$  and  $C \Rightarrow^* a_{k+1} \dots a_j$ ,  $i \leq k < j$ .

if  $B \in X_{ik}$ ,  $C \in X_{k+1,j}$ , and  $A \rightarrow BC \in P$ ;  $A \in X_{ij}$ .

Test  $j-i$  pairs  $(X_{ii}, X_{i+1,j})$ ,  $(X_{i,i+1}, X_{i+2,j})$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $(X_{i,j-1}, X_{jj})$

Since for each  $O(n^2)$   $X_{ij}$ , test at most  $n$  pairs,

$\therefore O(n^3)$ .

*CYK algorithm in PASCAL style*

**for**  $i:=1$  **to**  $n$  **do**

**for**  $j:=i$  **to**  $n$  **do**  $X_{ij} := \emptyset$ ; (\* initialize  $O(n^2)$ ,  $i \leq j$ , see Fig. 7.12 \*)

**for**  $i:=1$  **to**  $n$  **do** (\* basis  $O(n)$  \*)

**if**  $A \rightarrow a_i \in P$  **then**  $X_{ii} := X_{ii} \cup \{A\}$ ;

**for**  $k:=1$  **to**  $n-1$  **do**

**for**  $i:=1$  **to**  $n-k$  **do** (\* consider  $X_{i,i+k}$  \*)

**for**  $j:=i$  **to**  $i+k$  **do** (\* recursion  $O(n^3)$  \*)

**for**  $\forall A \rightarrow BC \in P$  **do**

**if**  $(B \in X_{i,j})$  **and**  $(C \in X_{j+1,i+k})$  **then**  $X_{i,i+k} := X_{i,i+k} \cup \{A\}$ ;

(\* See Fig. 7.13 \*)

### *Some undecidable problems on CFL's*

- 1. Is a given CFG  $G$  ambiguous?*
- 2. Is a given CFL  $L$  is inherently ambiguous?*
- 3. Is the intersection of two CFL's are empty?*
- 4. Are two CFL's are same?*
- 5. Is given CFL  $L$ ,  $L = \Sigma^*$  where  $\Sigma$  is the alphabet of  $L$ .*