

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: ε , 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 $G = (N, \Sigma, P, S)$ is a **context-free grammar**, if

1. N is a **finite set of nonterminals**(variables, syntactic categories),
2. Σ is a **finite set of terminal symbols**, where $N \cap \Sigma = \emptyset$,
3. P is a **finite set of productions**(rules),

where each production is a pair (A, α) , written $A \rightarrow \alpha$,

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

$\alpha \in (N \cup \Sigma)^*$, **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'

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

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

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

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

Note that $\underline{\varepsilon}$ is not the *empty string* but a *symbol* for regular expression.

$$N = \{E, B\}$$

$$\Sigma = \{\underline{\varepsilon}, \emptyset, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}, +, *, (,)\}$$

Example 5.3 regular expression revisited

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

5.1.3 Derivation Using a Grammar

Let $\alpha, \gamma \in (N \cup \Sigma)^*$ 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, $\alpha B \gamma \Rightarrow \alpha \beta \gamma$.

$\Rightarrow \subseteq (N \cup \Sigma)^* \times (N \cup \Sigma)^*$ a **binary relation on** $(N \cup \Sigma)^*$.

$\rightarrow \subseteq \Rightarrow$ \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^i .

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

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

Definition of \Rightarrow^* .

$\Rightarrow^* = \bigcup_{i \in N_0} \Rightarrow^i$. **reflexive transitive closure of** \Rightarrow .

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

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

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

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

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

Notational conventions for CFG

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

Derivation of CFG is nondeterministic

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

leftmost derivation, \Rightarrow_{lm} , to replace leftmost variable

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

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

rightmost derivation, \Rightarrow_{rm} , to replace rightmost variable

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

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

Note that $\Rightarrow_{lm}, \Rightarrow_{rm} \subseteq \Rightarrow$.

5.2 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** $a \in \Sigma$ or ε .
3. If an interior node is labelled A and its children are labelled X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n from left to right
 $A \rightarrow X_1X_2\dots X_n \in P$.

yield of a tree

concatenation of leaves of a tree from left to right

Recursive definition 1 (**bottom up**) of the parse tree.

Basis $\forall X \in N \cup \Sigma: (\{X\}, \emptyset, X)$ is a parse tree.

Recursion Let $(V_1, E_1, X_1), (V_2, E_2, X_2), \dots, (V_n, E_n, X_n)$ be parse trees and $A \rightarrow X_1X_2\dots X_n \in P$ where $1 \leq \forall i \leq n: X_i \in N \cup \Sigma$.

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

$$V = \{A\} \cup \bigcup_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}} V_i = \{A\} \cup V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_n \text{ and}$$

$$E = \bigcup_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}} \{(A, X_i)\} \cup E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_n.$$

Recursive definition 2 (**top down construction algorithm**) of parse tree.

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

Recursion Let (V, E, S) be parse trees and $A \in V$ is a **leaf** node **but** $A \in N$.

If $A \rightarrow X_1X_2\dots X_n \in P$. Then (V', E', S) is a **new** parse tree where

$$V' = V \cup \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\} \text{ and}$$

$$E' = E \cup \{(A, X_i) \mid 1 \leq \forall i \leq n\}.$$

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

$$(1) A \Rightarrow^* x,$$

$$(2) A \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x,$$

$$(3) A \Rightarrow_{rm}^* x,$$

(4) There is a parse tree with **root** A and **yield** x .

Proof (2) \Rightarrow (1), (3) \Rightarrow (1) are trivial.

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

(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)

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

5.4 Ambiguity in Grammars and Languages

$$G_1: E \rightarrow E + E \mid E * E \mid a \mid (E)$$

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

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

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 ,

$\forall x \in \Sigma^*$, 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**.

	<i>parser</i>	<i>structure</i>
<i>regular</i>	<i>deterministic</i>	<i>linear</i>
<i>context-free</i>	<i>nondeterministic</i>	<i>hierarchical</i>

Deterministic parsing of context-free languages

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

If $S \Rightarrow_{rm}^{\pi} x$ for $x \in \Sigma^$, $\pi^R \in P^*$ 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

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

$$G_2: E \rightarrow E + T \mid T * F \mid a \mid (E)$$

$$T \rightarrow T * F \mid a \mid (E)$$

$$F \rightarrow a \mid (E)$$

$$G_3: E \rightarrow E + T \mid T$$

$$T \rightarrow T * F \mid F$$

$$F \rightarrow a \mid (E)$$

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

$$|G_2| = 14 + 10 + 6 = 30, |G_3| = 6 + 6 + 6 = 18, |G_1| = 4 + 4 + 2 + 4 = 14.$$

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

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 $a^n b^n c^n d^n$.

$$S \Rightarrow_{lm} AB \Rightarrow_{lm} aAbB \Rightarrow_{lm}^* a^{n-1} Ab^{n-1} B \Rightarrow_{lm} a^n b^n B$$

$$\Rightarrow_{lm} a^n b^n cBd \Rightarrow_{lm}^* a^n b^n c^{n-1} B d^{n-1} \Rightarrow_{lm} a^n b^n c^n d^n.$$

$$S \Rightarrow_{lm} C \Rightarrow_{lm} aCd \Rightarrow_{lm}^* a^{n-1} C d^{n-1} \Rightarrow_{lm} a^n D d^n$$

$$\Rightarrow_{lm} a^n b D c d^n \Rightarrow_{lm}^* a^n b^{n-1} D c^{n-1} d^n \Rightarrow_{lm} a^n b^n c^n d^n.$$