

# Chap. 6 Pushdown Automata

## 6.1 Definition of Pushdown Automata

**Example 6.1**  $L = \{wcw^R \mid w \in (0+1)^*\}$

Consider *palindromes* over  $\{0, 1\}$  with center marker  $c$  (odd length).

A cfg  $P \rightarrow c \mid 0P0 \mid 1P1$ .

Consider a FA and a stack.

**Start** at state  $q_0$ .

**While** input symbol is not  $c$  **do**

push input symbol onto stack, and stay in  $q_0$ .

**Go to** the state  $q_1$ . /\* note that input symbol was  $c$  \*/

**While** input symbols is same as the top of the stack **do**

pop the top of the stack and stay in  $q_1$  **od**

**If** no more input symbol and empty stack in state  $q_1$ ,

**then** go to the final state  $q_2$  and **accept**, **else reject**.

Example  $P = (\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}, \{0, 1, c, \$\}, \{Z, O, Z_0\}, \delta, q_0, Z_0, \{q_2\})$

$$1. \quad \delta(q_0, 0, Z_0) = \{(q_0, ZZ_0)\}$$

$$\delta(q_0, 1, Z_0) = \{(q_0, OZ_0)\}$$

$$2. \quad \delta(q_0, 0, Z) = \{(q_0, ZZ)\}$$

$$\delta(q_0, 0, O) = \{(q_0, ZO)\}$$

*If see 0, then push Z in  $q_0$ .*

$$\delta(q_0, 1, Z) = \{(q_0, OZ)\}$$

$$\delta(q_0, 1, O) = \{(q_0, OO)\}$$

*If see 1, then push O in  $q_0$ .*

$$3'. \quad \delta(q_0, c, Z_0) = \{(q_1, Z_0)\}$$

$$\delta(q_0, c, Z) = \{(q_1, Z)\}$$

$$\delta(q_0, c, O) = \{(q_1, O)\}$$

*If see c, go to  $q_1$ .*

$$4. \quad \delta(q_1, 0, Z) = \{(q_1, \varepsilon)\}$$

*If see 0, then pop Z in  $q_1$ .*

$$\delta(q_1, 1, O) = \{(q_1, \varepsilon)\}$$

*If see 1, then pop O in  $q_1$ .*

$$5'. \quad \delta(q_1, \$, Z_0) = \{(q_2, \varepsilon)\}$$

*If see \$, go to the final state  $q_2$ .*

$\$$ : end of string marker

**Def. 6.1** A pushdown automaton (PDA)  $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0, F)$  is

1.  $Q$  is a **finite set of states**,
2.  $\Sigma$  is a **finite set of input symbols**,
3.  $\Gamma$  is a **finite stack alphabet**,
4.  $\delta$  is a **transition function**.

$$\delta: Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \times \Gamma \rightarrow 2^Q \times \Gamma^*.$$

5.  $q_0 \in Q$  is an **initial state**,
6.  $Z_0 \in \Gamma^*$  is an **initial stack content**,
7.  $F \subseteq Q$  is a **set of final states**.

### ***Instantaneous description (Configuration) of PDA***

*(current state, remained input string, stack contents)*

$$(q, x, \gamma) \in Q \times \Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*.$$

$$\vdash_P \subseteq (Q \times \Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*) \times (Q \times \Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*)$$

$$(q, ax, X\beta) \vdash_P (p, x, \gamma\beta), \text{ if } (p, \gamma) \in \delta(q, a, X)$$

$$(q, x, X\beta) \vdash_P (p, x, \gamma\beta), \text{ if } (p, \gamma) \in \delta(q, \varepsilon, X)$$

We may use  $\vdash$  instead of  $\vdash_P$  if  $P$  is understood.

$\vdash$  is a binary relation on  $(Q \times \Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*)$ .

$\vdash^*$  is a reflexive transitive closure of  $\vdash$ .

*Recursive definition of  $\vdash^*$ .*

$$\forall I \in Q \times \Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*, I \vdash^* I.$$

$$\text{If } I \vdash J \text{ and } J \vdash^* K, I \vdash^* K.$$

**Theorem 6.5** If  $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0, F)$  is a PDA and

$(q, xy, \alpha) \vdash^* (p, y, \beta)$  for  $q, p \in Q, x, y \in \Sigma^*$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma^*$ . Then  
 $(q, xyw, \alpha\gamma) \vdash^* (p, yw, \beta\gamma)$  for any  $w \in \Sigma^*$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma^*$ .

**Theorem 6.6** If  $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0, F)$  is a PDA and

$(q, xyw, \alpha) \vdash^* (p, yw, \beta)$  for  $q, p \in Q, x, y, w \in \Sigma^*$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma^*$ . Then  
 $(q, xy, \alpha) \vdash^* (p, y, \beta)$ .

## 6.2 The language of a PDA

$$L(P) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid (q_0, w, Z_0) \vdash^* (f, \varepsilon, \alpha), f \in F\}$$

*language accepted by final state*

$$N(P) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid (q_0, w, Z_0) \vdash^* (f, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)\}$$

*language accepted by null stack*

### 6.2.3 From Empty Stack to Final State

**Theorem 6.9** If  $L = N(P_N)$  for some PDA  $P_N$ .

Then there is a PDA  $P_F$  such that  $L = L(P_F)$ .

Let  $P_N = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta_N, q_0, Z_N, \emptyset)$ .

$P_F = (Q \cup \{q_0', q_F\}, \Sigma, \Gamma \cup \{Z_F\}, \delta_F, q_0', Z_F, \{q_F\})$

where  $q_0', q_F \notin Q, Z_F \notin \Gamma$ .

$\delta_F$ : 1.  $\delta_F(q_0', \varepsilon, Z_F) = \{(q_0, Z_N Z_F)\}$ .

push old stack **bottom**  $Z_N$ .

2.  $\delta_F \supseteq \delta_N$ ,

simulate  $P_N$  with  $\delta_N$ .

3.  $\forall q \in Q, \delta_F(q, \varepsilon, Z_F) = \{(q_F, Z_F)\}$ .

If stack is **empty**( $Z_F$ ), go to the **final** state  $q_F$ .

### 6.2.4 From Final State to Empty Stack

**Theorem 6.11** If  $L = L(P_F)$  for some PDA  $P_F$

Then there is a PDA  $P_N$  such that  $L = N(P_N)$ .

Let  $P_F = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta_F, q_0, Z_F, F)$ .

$P_N = (Q \cup \{q_0', q_E\}, \Sigma, \Gamma \cup \{Z_N\}, \delta_N, q_0', Z_N, \emptyset)$

where  $q_0', q_E \notin Q, Z_F \notin \Gamma$ .

- $\delta_N$ :
1.  $\delta_N(q_0', \varepsilon, Z_N) = \{(q_0, Z_F Z_N)\}$       *push old stack **bottom**  $Z_F$*
  2.  $\delta_N \supseteq \delta_F$       *simulate  $P_F$  with  $\delta_F$*
  3.  $\forall f \in F, \forall Z \in \Gamma \cup \{Z_N\}, \delta_N(f, \varepsilon, Z) \supseteq \{(q_E, \varepsilon)\}$ .

If **final** state, **pop** stack symbol and go to the **empty** state  $q_E$ .

4.  $\forall Z \in \Gamma \cup \{Z_N\}, \delta_N(q_E, \varepsilon, Z) = \{(q_E, \varepsilon)\}$ .      **Empty** stack in  $q_E$ .

### 6.3.1 From Context-free Grammar to Pushdown Automata

**Theorem 6.13** If  $G = (N, \Sigma, P, S)$  is a cfg. Then  $\exists$  PDA  $P$  . $\exists$ .  $L(G) = N(P)$ .

**Construct**  $P = (\{q\}, \Sigma, N \cup \Sigma, \delta, q, S, \emptyset)$

$\forall A \in N, \delta(q, \varepsilon, A) = \{(q, \alpha) \mid A \rightarrow \alpha \in P\}$  *guess*  $A$  as  $\alpha (A \rightarrow \alpha \in P)$ .

$\forall a \in \Sigma, \delta(q, a, a) = \{(q, \varepsilon)\}$  *verify*  $a \in \Sigma$ .

*guess and verify parser*

**Proof**  $A \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x\alpha$  if and only if  $(q, x, A) \vdash^* (q, \varepsilon, \alpha)$ ,  $x \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $\alpha \in (N \cup \Sigma)^*$ .

**(If)** If  $(q, x, A) \vdash^i (q, \varepsilon, \alpha)$ , then  $A \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x\alpha$ .

*basis*  $i = 0, x = \varepsilon, \therefore (q, \varepsilon, A) \vdash^0 (q, \varepsilon, A). \therefore A \Rightarrow_{lm}^* A$ .

*induction* Let  $i \geq 1$ , and consider the next-to-last step.

i)  $(q, x, A) \vdash^{i-1} (q, \varepsilon, B\gamma) \vdash_{Guess} (q, \varepsilon, \beta\gamma) = (q, \varepsilon, \alpha)$

$\therefore A \Rightarrow_{lm}^* xB\gamma$  by IH and  $B \rightarrow \beta \in P$  by construction of  $\delta_{Guess}$ .

$\therefore A \Rightarrow_{lm}^* xB\gamma \Rightarrow_{lm} x\beta\gamma = x\alpha$ .



$$\begin{aligned}
\text{ii) } (q, x, A) = (q, ya, A) &\vdash^{i-1} (q, a, a\alpha) \vdash_{\text{Verify}} (q, \varepsilon, \alpha) \\
(q, y, A) &\vdash^{i-1} (q, \varepsilon, a\alpha) \quad (\text{Thm 6.6; } (q, \underline{\varepsilon}, a\alpha)) \\
\therefore A &\Rightarrow_{lm}^* ya\alpha = x\alpha \text{ by IH}
\end{aligned}$$

**(Only if)** If  $A \Rightarrow_{lm}^i x\alpha$ , then  $(q, x, A) \vdash^* (q, \varepsilon, \alpha)$ .

**basis**  $i = 0$ ,  $A \Rightarrow_{lm}^0 A$ .  $(q, \varepsilon, A) \vdash^0 (q, \varepsilon, A)$ .

**induction** Let  $i \geq 1$ , and consider the next-to-last step.

$A \Rightarrow_{lm}^{i-1} yB\gamma \Rightarrow_{lm} y\beta\gamma = yy'\gamma' = x\alpha$  where  $\beta = y'\gamma'$ ,  $y' \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $\gamma' \in (N \cup \Sigma)^*$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
(q, y, A) &\vdash^* (q, \varepsilon, B\gamma) \text{ by IH, } (q, yy', A) \vdash^* (q, y', B\gamma) \text{ (by T.6.5)} \\
&\vdash_G (q, y', \beta\gamma) = (q, y', y'\gamma'\gamma) \vdash_{V^{|y'|}} (q, \varepsilon, \gamma'\gamma) = (q, \varepsilon, \alpha)
\end{aligned}$$

$\therefore A \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x\alpha$  if and only if  $(q, x, A) \vdash^* (q, \varepsilon, \alpha)$ .

If  $A = S$ ,  $\alpha = \varepsilon$ ,  $S \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x$  if and only if  $(q, x, S) \vdash^* (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$

$\therefore L(G) = N(P)$ .

### 6.3.2 From Pushdown Automata to Context-free Grammar

**Theorem 6.14** If a PDA  $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z_0, \emptyset)$ .

Then there is a CFG  $G$  such that  $L(G) = N(P)$ .

**proof**  $G = (Q \times \Gamma \times Q \cup \{S\}, \Sigma, P, S)$

$$P = \{S \rightarrow [q_0, Z_0, q] \mid \forall q \in Q\}$$

$$\cup \{[q, A, p_m] \rightarrow a [p, Y_1, p_1][p_1, Y_2, p_2] \dots [p_{m-1}, Y_m, p_m] \mid$$

$$(p, Y_1 \dots Y_m) \in \delta(q, a, A), a \in \Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}, \forall p_1, \dots, p_m \in Q\}$$

$$(if\ m = 0, [q, A, p] \rightarrow a \in P, a \in \Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\})$$

$[q, A, p] \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x \in \Sigma^*$ , if and only if  $(q, x, A) \vdash^* (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ .

Nonterminal  $[q, A, p]$  derives terminal string  $x$  if and only if

$x$  causes PDA  $P$  to pop  $A$  from stack

starting in the state  $q$  and ending in the state  $p$ .

1) If  $(q, x, A) \vdash^i (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ , then  $[q, A, p] \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x$ .

**basis**  $i = 1$ ,  $(q, x, A) \vdash (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ ,  $(p, \varepsilon) \in \delta(q, x, A)$ ,  $x \in \Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}$ .

$\therefore [q, A, p] \rightarrow x \in P$  where  $x \in \Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}$ .

**induction**  $(q, x, A) = (q, ay, A) \vdash (p_1, y, Y_1 \dots Y_m) \vdash^{i-1} (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ .

$\therefore \exists p_2, \dots, p_m, p \in Q$  and assume  $y = y_1 \dots y_m \in \Sigma^*$ .

$(p_1, y_1 \dots y_m, Y_1 \dots Y_m) \vdash^* (p_2, y_2 \dots y_m, Y_2 \dots Y_m) \vdash^* \dots (p_m, y_m, y_m) \vdash (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ .

$1 \leq \forall i \leq m$ ,  $(p_i, y_i, Y_i) \vdash^* (p_{i+1}, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ . (Thm 6.5 and  $y_i$  depends only on  $Y_i$ )

$\therefore [p_i, Y_i, p_{i+1}] \Rightarrow_{lm}^* y_i$  by IH.

$\therefore [p_1, Y_1, p_2][p_2, Y_2, p_3] \dots [p_m, Y_m, p] \Rightarrow_{lm}^* y_1 y_2 \dots y_m = y$

Since  $(q, ay, A) \vdash (p_1, y, Y_1 \dots Y_m)$ ,  $(p_1, Y_1 \dots Y_m) \in \delta(q, a, A)$ .

$\therefore \exists [q, A, p] \rightarrow a [p_1, Y_1, p_2][p_2, Y_2, p_3] \dots [p_m, Y_m, p] \in P. (\forall p_i \in Q)$

$\therefore [q, A, p] \Rightarrow_{lm} a [p_1, Y_1, p_2][p_2, Y_2, p_3] \dots [p_m, Y_m, p] \Rightarrow_{lm}^* ay = x$ .

2) If  $[q, A, p] \Rightarrow_{lm}^i x$ , then  $(q, x, A) \vdash^* (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ .

**basis**  $i = 1$ ,  $[q, A, p] \rightarrow x \in P$ ,  $(p, \varepsilon) \in \delta(q, x, A)$  where  $x \in \Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}$ .

**induction**  $[q, A, p] \Rightarrow_{lm} a [p_1, Y_1, p_2] \dots [p_m, Y_m, p] \Rightarrow_{lm}^{i-1} x \in \Sigma^*$ .

$x = ay_1 \dots y_m$  where  $1 \leq \forall i \leq m$ ,  $[p_i, Y_i, p_{i+1}] \Rightarrow_{lm}^i y_i$  where  $p_{m+1} = p$ .

$\therefore (p_i, y_i, Y_i) \vdash^* (p_{i+1}, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$  by IH.

Since  $[q, A, p] \rightarrow a [p_1, Y_1, p_2] \dots [p_m, Y_m, p] \in P$ ,

$a [p_1, Y_1, p_2] \dots [p_m, Y_m, p] \in \delta(q, a, A)$ .

$\therefore (q, ay_1 \dots y_m, A) \vdash (p_1, y_1 \dots y_m, Y_1 \dots Y_m) \vdash^* \dots \vdash^* (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ .

$[q, A, p] \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x$ ,  $\forall p \in Q$  if and only if  $(q, x, A) \vdash^* (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ .

$[q_0, Z_0, p] \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x$ ,  $\forall p \in Q$  if and only if  $(q_0, x, Z_0) \vdash^* (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ .

$S \Rightarrow_{lm}^* x$ ,  $\forall p \in Q$  if and only if  $(q_0, x, Z_0) \vdash^* (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ .

**Q.E.D.**