

BILL AND NATHAN START RECORDING

Context Free Languages

Why Are Context Free Languages Important

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- 4) Which languages are **not** context free?

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- 1) Languages that require a LARGE NFA but a SMALL CFG.
- 2) Closure properties of CFLs.
- 3) CFL's are all in P (poly time).
- 4) Which languages are **not** context free?
- 5) Languages that are CFL but not Regular.

Examples of Context Free Grammars

$$S \rightarrow aSb$$

$$S \rightarrow e$$

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Context Free Grammar for $\{a^{2^n}b^n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$

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Context Free Grammar for $\{a^m b^n : m > n\}$

DISCUSS

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DISCUSS

$S \rightarrow AT$

$T \rightarrow aTb$

$T \rightarrow e$

$A \rightarrow Aa$

$A \rightarrow a$

Context Free Grammars

Def A **Context Free Grammar** is a tuple $G = (N, \Sigma, R, S)$

- ▶ N is a finite set of **nonterminals**.
- ▶ Σ is a finite **alphabet**. Note $\Sigma \cap N = \emptyset$.
- ▶ $R \subseteq N \times (N \cup \Sigma)^*$ and are called **Rules**.
- ▶ $S \in N$, the **start symbol**.

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Examples:

- ▶ $A \Rightarrow a$
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Then, if w is string of **non-terminals only**, we define $L(G)$ by:

$$L(G) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid S \Rightarrow w\}$$

Number of a 's = Number of b 's

Is

$$L = \{w \mid \#_a(w) = \#_b(w)\}$$

context free?

YES

Let G be the CFG

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$$S \rightarrow bSa$$

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(Exception: a course on foundations. I proved $x + y = y + x$.)

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Solution The proof is on the slides, but I won't go over it, and you don't need to know it for a HW or Exam.

$$L(G) \subseteq \{w \mid \#_a(w) = \#_b(w)\}$$

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Let $L(G)' = \{\alpha \in \{S, a, b\}^* : S \Rightarrow \alpha\}$ (Note that we allow S in α .)

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Case 1 $S \Rightarrow \alpha' S \alpha'' \rightarrow \alpha' aSb \alpha$. By IH $\#_a(\alpha' S \alpha'') = \#_b(\alpha' S \alpha'')$.

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Case 2 Other cases for last step similar.

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We must show that **every** w with $\#_a(w) = \#_b(w)$ can be generated.

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We use induction on $|w|$.

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Base Case $|w| = 0$. So $w = e$. Can be generated by $S \rightarrow e$.

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We use induction on $|w|$.

Base Case $|w| = 0$. So $w = e$. Can be generated by $S \rightarrow e$.

Ind Hyp If $|w'| \leq n - 1$ and $\#_a(w') = \#_b(w')$ then $w' \in L(G)$.

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Case 3 $w = aw'a$. This is first NON-OBVIOUS part!

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Case 3 $w = aw'a$. This is first NON-OBVIOUS part! Next Slide.

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Case 3 $w = aw'a$. Let $w = a\sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_{n-1}a$. Look at prefixes of w :

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Case 3 $w = aw'a$. Let $w = a\sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_{n-1}a$. Look at prefixes of w :

$$a: \#_a(a) > \#_b(a)$$

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Case 3 $w = aw'a$. Let $w = a\sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_{n-1}a$. Look at prefixes of w :

$$a: \#_a(a) > \#_b(a)$$

For all $2 \leq i \leq n-1$, EITHER

$$\#_a(a\sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_i) = \#_a(a\sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_{i-1}) + 1.$$

OR

$$\#_b(a\sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_i) = \#_b(a\sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_{i-1}) + 1.$$

But NOT both.

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Let G be the CFG

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Case 3 $w = aw'a$. Let $w = a\sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_{n-1}a$. Look at prefixes of w :

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 - 3) If $L \subseteq a^*$ and L is not regular than L is not a CFL.
- We will not be proving Langs NOT CFL.

CLOSURE PROPERTIES AND $\text{REG} \subset \text{CFL}$

Closure Properties: PROVE or DISPROVE

If L_1, L_2 are Context Free Languages then

1. IS $L_1 \cup L_2$ is a context free Lang?
2. IS $L_1 \cap L_2$ is a context free Lang?
3. IS $L_1 \cdot L_2$ is a context free Lang?
4. IS $\overline{L_1}$ is a context free Lang?
5. IS L_1^* is a context free Lang?

DISCUSS

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Note We assume $N_1 \cap N_2 = \emptyset$.

Finite vs Infinite Union

If L_1 and L_2 are regular then $L_1 \cup L_2$ is regular.

This is true for 3 languages or 4 languages or 98 languages.

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No, because:

- ▶ $L_1 = \{ab\}$ is regular.
- ▶ $L_k = \{a^k b^k\}$ is regular.
- ▶ $L_1 \cup L_2 \cup \dots = \{a^n b^n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is not regular.

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What about for CFLs?

- ▶ $L_1 = \{abc\}$ is a CFL.
- ▶ $L_k = \{a^k b^k c^k\}$ is a CFL.
- ▶ We will see later that $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} L_i = \{a^n b^n c^n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is not CFL.

$L_1, L_2 \text{ CFL} \rightarrow L_1 \cap L_2 \text{ CFL}$

NOT TRUE: $a^n b^n c^* \cap a^* b^n c^n = a^n b^n c^n$.

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Let

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This is a CFL. This will be a HW.

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REG contained in CFL

Thm If L is regular then L is CFL.

DISCUSS

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For every **regex** α , $L(\alpha)$ is a CFL.

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Prove by ind on the length of α .

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Case 1 $\alpha = \beta_1 \cup \beta_2$. By IH $L(\beta_1)$ and $L(\beta_2)$ are CFL's. By closure under \cup , $L(\alpha)$ is CFL.

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Case 2 $\alpha = \beta_1 \cdot \beta_2$. By IH $L(\beta_1)$ and $L(\beta_2)$ are CFL's. By closure under \cdot , $L(\alpha)$ is CFL.

Case 3 $\alpha = \beta^*$. By IH $L(\beta)$ is CFL. By closure under $*$, $L(\alpha)$ is CFL.

Examples of CFL's and Size of CFG's

Size of CFGs

How big is a CFL for the language $\{aaaaaaaa\}$ (there are 8 a 's).

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Next slide has a standard form for CFL's that make size make sense.

Chomsky Normal Form

Def CFG G is in **Chomsky Normal Form** if the rules are all of the following form:

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Def CFG G is in **Chomsky Normal Form** if the rules are all of the following form:

- 1) $A \rightarrow BC$ where $A, B, C \in N$ (nonterminals).
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- 3) $S \rightarrow e$ (where S is the start state).

Example of Chomsky Normal Form

Recall the CFG:

$$S \rightarrow aaaaaaaaa$$

Example of Chomsky Normal Form

Recall the CFG:

$$S \rightarrow aaaaaaaaa$$

DISCUSS TO FIND A CHOMSKY NORMAL FORM CFG FOR $\{aaaaaaaaa\}$.

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Example of Chomsky Normal Form

Recall the CFG:

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Chomsky Normal form CFG that generates same lang:

$$S \rightarrow AA$$

Example of Chomsky Normal Form

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Chomsky Normal form CFG that generates same lang:

$$S \rightarrow AA$$

$$A \rightarrow BB$$

Example of Chomsky Normal Form

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Example of Chomsky Normal Form

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$$S \rightarrow aaaaaaaaa$$

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We measure the size of a Chomsky Normal Form CFG by the number of rules.

Example of Chomsky Normal Form

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We measure the size of a Chomsky Normal Form CFG by the number of rules.

So $\{aaaaaaaa\}$ has a Chomsky Normal Form CFG of size 4.

Chomsky Normal Form CFG for $\{a^n\}$

We say that $\{a^8\}$ has a CNF CFG of size 4.

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- 2) Size 5

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What about $\{a^{16}\}$? Vote

- 1) Size 8
- 2) Size 5

The answer is 5. Next slide.

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$$S \rightarrow AA$$

Chomsky Normal Form CFG for $\{a^{16}\}$

$S \rightarrow AA$

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Chomsky Normal Form CFG for $\{a^{16}\}$

$S \rightarrow AA$

$A \rightarrow BB$

$B \rightarrow CC$

$C \rightarrow DD$

$D \rightarrow a$

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$$S \rightarrow AA$$

$$A \rightarrow BB$$

$$B \rightarrow CC$$

$$C \rightarrow DD$$

$$D \rightarrow a$$

What to do if n is not a power of 2. HW.

$$L = \{a\}^n$$

Upshot

For $L_n = \{a^n\}$:

- ▶ Any DFA or NFA that recognizes L_n has $n + \Omega(1)$ states.
- ▶ There is a CFG that generates L_n with $O(\log n)$ rules.

Our Old Friend $L = \{a, b\}^* a \{a, b\}^n$

1) We showed that L requires a 2^{n+1} size DFA.

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- 3) DISCUSS for getting a CFG of size $\ll n$.

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$L_2 = \{a, b\}^n$. A $\lg(n) + 3$ rule Chomsky Normal Form CFG.

$S \rightarrow S_1 S_1$

$S_1 \rightarrow S_2 S_2$

\vdots

$S_{\lg(n)+1} \rightarrow S_{\lg(n)} S_{\lg(n)}$

$S_{\lg(n)} \rightarrow a \mid b$

Note We are assuming n is a power of 2.

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Recall the CFG for $\{a^m b^n : m > n\}$. We put it into Chomsky Normal Form.

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Repeat the process with the other rules.

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The proof that PDA-recognizers and CFG-generators are equivalent is messy so we won't be doing it. We won't deal with PDA's in this course at all.