

Describe the set of arithmetic expressions with correctly matched parentheses.

Not regular.  $F = \{ (^i \mid i \geq 0 \}$

$u = (^i, v = (^j \quad (i \neq j)$

$w = ()^i$

$uw$  ~~is~~ has correctly matched parentheses  
 $vw$  does not.

Ignore numbers, variables, operations, etc.

Definition:  $\epsilon$  has correctly matched parentheses

- If  $u$  and  $v$  have correctly matched parentheses

then  $uv$  also has correctly matched parentheses

- If  $u$  has correctly matched parentheses then  $(u)$  also has correctly matched parentheses.

Let  $M$  denote the set of correctly matched strings.

CFG.  $\begin{cases} M \rightarrow \epsilon \\ M \rightarrow MM \\ M \rightarrow (M) \end{cases}$

$G = (\{M\}, \{(,)\}, \{M \rightarrow \epsilon, M \rightarrow MM, M \rightarrow (M)\}, M)$

$L_{011} = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ . not regular.

$G = (\{S\}, \{0,1\}, \{S \rightarrow \epsilon, S \rightarrow 0S1\}, S)$

$S \rightarrow \epsilon$

$\rightarrow 0S1$

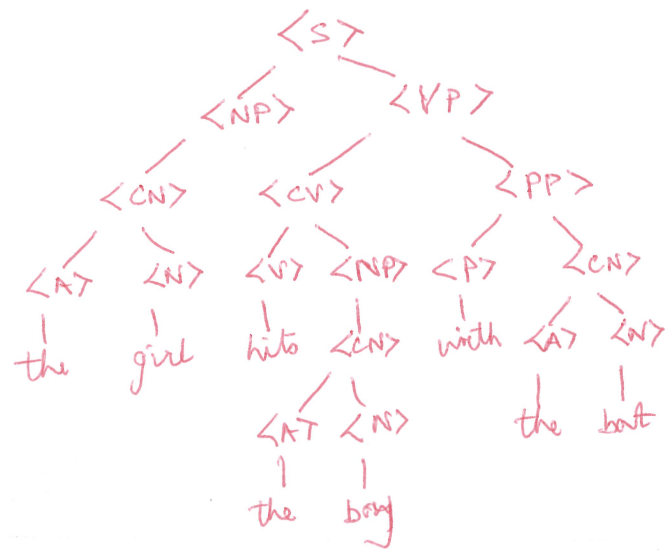
$S \rightarrow \epsilon \mid 0S1$

<S> → <NP> <VP>  
 <NP> → <CN> | <CN> <PP>  
 <VP> → <CV> | <CV> <PP>  
 <PP> → <P> <CN>  
 <CN> → <A> <N>  
 <CV> → <V> | <V> <NP>  
 <A> → a | the  
 <N> → boy | girl | flower | bat  
 <V> → hits | sees | likes  
 <P> → with

NP      VP  
 a boy    sees  
 A    N    V

a boy sees a flower

The girl hits the boy with the bat.



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## LECTURE 5: CONTEXT-FREE LANGUAGES

Date: September 5, 2023.

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**Context-free Grammar (CFG)** is  $G = (N, \Sigma, P, S)$  where

- $N$  is a finite set whose elements are called **variables/non-terminals**
- $\Sigma$  is a finite set whose elements are called **terminals**
- $P$  is a finite set of **production rules** of the form  $A \rightarrow w$ , where  $A \in N$  and  $w \in (\Sigma \cup N)^*$
- $S \in N$  is the **starting non-terminal**

For such a grammar we have the following definitions.

1. For  $x, y, z \in (\Sigma \cup N)^*$  and  $A \in N$ , we say  $xAz \xrightarrow{1}_G xyz$  (“ $xyz$  can be derived from  $xAz$  in one step”) if  $A \rightarrow y$  is a rule of  $G$ .
2. For  $x, z \in (\Sigma \cup N)^*$  we say  $x \xrightarrow{*}_G z$  (“ $z$  can be derived from  $x$  in zero or more steps”) if either  $x = z$ , or there exists  $y \in (\Sigma \cup N)^*$  such that  $x \xrightarrow{1}_G y$  and  $y \xrightarrow{*}_G z$  (inductively).
3. For  $w \in (\Sigma \cup N)^*$ ,  $\mathbf{L}(w) = \{x \in \Sigma^* \mid w \xrightarrow{*}_G x\}$ .
4. The **language** defined by grammar  $G$  is  $\mathbf{L}(G) = \mathbf{L}(S)$ .
5. A language  $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$  is **context-free** if there is a grammar  $G$  such that  $L = \mathbf{L}(G)$ .

**Parse Tree** for a string  $w \in \Sigma^*$  in grammar  $G$  is a labeled, rooted, ordered tree where

- Each leaf is labeled by either  $\epsilon$  or a symbol in  $\Sigma$ . Concatenating these in order from left to right yields the string  $w$ .
- ~~Root is labeled  $S$ .~~
- Each internal node is labeled with a non-terminal.
- If an interior node is labeled by  $A$  with children labeled by  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k$  (in order from left to right), then  $A \rightarrow X_1 X_2 \dots X_k$  must be a rule in  $G$ .

**Proposition 1.** Let  $G = (N, \Sigma, P, S)$  be a CFG. A string  $w$  has a parse tree with root labeled  $A \in N$  iff  $A \xrightarrow{*}_G w$ .

**Ambiguity:** A CFG  $G = (N, \Sigma, P, S)$  is said to be **ambiguous** if there is a string  $w \in \Sigma^*$  such that there are two different parse trees for  $w$  with root labeled  $S$ .

$G$  is **unambiguous** if it is not ambiguous.

Problem 1. Consider the CFG  $G = (\{S, Y\}, \{a, b\}, P, S)$  where  $P$  is the set of rules

$$S \rightarrow aSb \mid bY \mid Ya$$

$$Y \rightarrow bY \mid aY \mid \epsilon$$

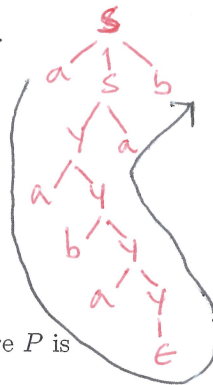
1. Which of the following strings are in  $L(G)$ :  $aabb$ ,  $aabbb$ ,  $abaab$ ?

$$S \xrightarrow{G} aSb \xrightarrow{G} aaSbb \not\xrightarrow{G} aabb \notin L(G)$$

$$S \xrightarrow{G} aSb \xrightarrow{G} aaSbb \xrightarrow{G} aabYbb \xrightarrow{G} aabbb \in L(G)$$

$$S \xrightarrow{G} aSb \xrightarrow{G} aYa \xrightarrow{G} aabYab \xrightarrow{G} aabaab \in L(G)$$

2. Draw a parse tree for the string  $aabaab$  with root labeled  $S$ .



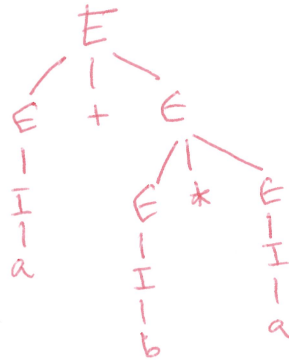
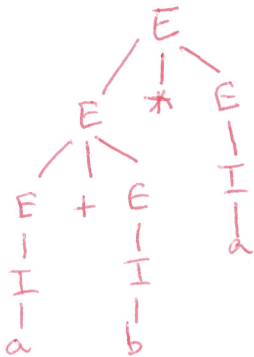
Problem 2.  $G_{\text{exp}} = (\{E, I, N\}, \{a, b, 0, 1, (, ), +, *, -\}, P, E)$  where  $P$  is

$$E \rightarrow I \mid N \mid E + E \mid E * E \mid (E)$$

$$I \rightarrow a \mid b \mid Ia \mid Ib$$

$$N \rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid N0 \mid N1 \mid -N \mid +N$$

Draw a parse tree for  $a + b * a$ .



Problem 3. Design a CFG for the language  $\{a^i b^j \mid j \geq 2i\}$ .

$$G = (\{S\}, \{a, b\}, P, S)$$

$$S \rightarrow \epsilon \mid a S b b \mid S b$$

$\ni a b b$

$\ni a a b b$

$\ni b$

$$A = \{a^i b^j \mid j \geq 2i\}$$

$$w \in L(G) \iff w \in A$$

$$S \xrightarrow[G]{*} w \implies w \in A \quad (\text{proof by induction on } \# \text{ derivation steps})$$

$$w \in A \implies S \xrightarrow[G]{*} w \quad (\text{proof by induction on } |w|)$$

**Proposition 2.** Let  $A, B \subseteq \Sigma^*$  be context-free languages and let  $h: \Sigma \rightarrow \Gamma^*$  be a homomorphism. Then the following languages are also context free:  $A \cup B$ ,  $AB$ ,  $A^*$ , and  $h(A)$ .

$$G_1 = (N_1, \Sigma, P_1, S_1)$$

$$A = L(G_1)$$

$$G_2 = (N_2, \Sigma, P_2, S_2)$$

$$B = L(G_2)$$

$$A \cup B: G_{A \cup B} = (N_1 \cup N_2 \cup \{S\}, \Sigma, P, S) \quad | \quad N_1 \cap N_2 = \emptyset$$

$$P = \{S \rightarrow S_1 \mid S_2\} \cup P_1 \cup P_2.$$

$$AB: G_{AB} = (N_1 \cup N_2 \cup \{S\}, \Sigma, P, S) \quad | \quad N_1 \cap N_2 = \emptyset.$$

$$P = \{S \rightarrow S_1 S_2\} \cup P_1 \cup P_2$$

$$A^*: S \rightarrow \epsilon \mid S_1 S$$

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$$h(A): G_{h(A)} = (N_1 \cup \{X_a \mid a \in \Sigma\}, \Gamma, P, S_1)$$

$P$ : Rules from  $P_1$  where  $a$  is replaced by the non-terminal  $X_a$  and  $\forall a \in \Sigma$ .  
 $X_a \rightarrow h(a)$ .