

1. Show that in any CNF grammar all parse trees for strings of length n have $2n-1$ interior nodes (note that interior nodes have labels which are variables).

Solution: Consider a parse tree for a string w of length n . If we omit all productions $A \rightarrow a$, then we are left with a full binary tree, consisting of n leaves (corresponding to the n terminal symbols of w). It is well-known that a binary tree with n leaves has $n - 1$ internal nodes. Thus we have a total of $2n - 1$ variables, if we restore the original parse tree.

2. Use the CYK algorithm to check if the strings baaab, aabab are in the language of the grammar

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow AB|BC \\ A &\rightarrow BA|a \\ B &\rightarrow CC|b \\ C &\rightarrow AB|a \end{aligned}$$

Solution: Straightforward

3. Is there an algorithm for the following decision problem: Given a context-free grammar G , is $L(G)$ finite ?

Solution: The solution to this is identical to the same decision problem for regular languages.

4. Is there a decision algorithm for the following problem: Given a context-free grammar G , does $L(G)$ contain at least 100 strings ? (Hint: Use the solution to the previous problem)

Solution: We use the decision algorithm for the previous problem to determine if $L(G)$ is finite or infinite.

If it is infinite then $L(G)$ has at least 100 strings. Otherwise, all strings are of length $\leq n$, where n is the pumping lemma constant. We now generate strings of length 0, 1, 2, etc. up to n , and check for membership, using the CYK algorithm.

5. Show that the following two languages are context-free by giving grammars for each.

$$L_1 = \{a^n b^{2n} c^m | n, m \geq 0\} \quad L_2 = \{a^n b^m c^{2m} | n, m \geq 0\}$$

Is $L_1 \cap L_2$ context-free? Justify your answer.

Solution:

The following grammar generates L_1 :

$$\begin{aligned}
S &\rightarrow XY \\
X &\rightarrow AXBB|\epsilon \\
Y &\rightarrow cY|\epsilon \\
A &\rightarrow a \\
B &\rightarrow b
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can construct a grammar to generate L_2 .

$L_1 \cap L_2 = \{a^n b^{2n} c^{4n}\}$. This is not context-free, as can be seen by a stright-forward use of the Pumping Lemma.

6. Use the pumping lemma to show that the language $L = a^j b^j c^i | j \neq i$ is not context-free.

Solution: We have to use Ogden's lemma for this one

7. Give context-free grammars that generate the following languages: (a) $L = \{0^i 1^j | i \geq j \geq 0\}$ (b) $L = \{0^i 1^j | i \leq j\}$.

Solution: The following grammar generates the language in (a)

$$\begin{aligned}
S &\rightarrow XY \\
Y &\rightarrow 0Y1|\epsilon \\
X &\rightarrow 0X|\epsilon
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly for the language in (b)