

# Foundations of Informatics: a Bridging Course

**Week 3: Formal Languages and Processes** 

**Part C: Context-Free Languages** 

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Thomas Noll
Software Modeling and Verification Group
RWTH Aachen University

https://moves.rwth-aachen.de/teaching/ws-23-24/foi/





#### **Outline of Part C**

#### Context-Free Grammars and Languages

Context-Free vs. Regular Languages

**Chomsky Normal Form** 

The Word Problem for Context-Free Languages

The Emptiness Problem for Context-Free Languages

Closure Properties of Context-Free Languages

Pushdown Automata

Pushdown Automata and Context-Free Languages





### Example C.1

Syntax definition of programming languages by "Backus-Naur" rules Here: simple arithmetic expressions

### Meaning:

An expression is either 0 or 1, or it is of the form u + v, u \* v, or (u) where u, v are again expressions





### Example C.1 (continued)

Here we abbreviate  $\langle Expression \rangle$  as E, and use " $\rightarrow$ " instead of "::=". Thus:

$$E \rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid E + E \mid E * E \mid (E)$$



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#### **Context-Free Grammars I**

#### **Definition C.2**

A context-free grammar (CFG) is a quadruple

$$G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$$

#### where

- N is a finite set of nonterminal symbols
- ∑ is the (finite) alphabet of terminal symbols (disjoint from N)
- P is a finite set of production rules of the form  $A \to \alpha$  where  $A \in N$  and  $\alpha \in (N \cup \Sigma)^*$
- $S \in N$  is a start symbol





#### **Context-Free Grammars II**

### Example C.3

For the above example, we have:

- *N* = {*E*}
- $\Sigma = \{0, 1, +, *, (,)\}$
- $P = \{E \rightarrow 0, E \rightarrow 1, E \rightarrow E + E, E \rightarrow E * E, E \rightarrow (E)\}$
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### Naming conventions:

- nonterminals start with uppercase letters
- terminals start with lowercase letters
- start symbol = symbol on LHS of first production
- ⇒ grammar completely defined by productions





#### **Definition C.4**

Let  $G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  be a CFG.

• A sentence  $\gamma \in (N \cup \Sigma)^*$  is directly derivable from  $\beta \in (N \cup \Sigma)^*$  if there exist  $\pi = A \to \alpha \in P$  and  $\delta_1, \delta_2 \in (N \cup \Sigma)^*$  such that  $\beta = \delta_1 A \delta_2$  and  $\gamma = \delta_1 \alpha \delta_2$  (notation:  $\beta \stackrel{\pi}{\Rightarrow} \gamma$  or just  $\beta \Rightarrow \gamma$ ).



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- A derivation (of length  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ) of  $\gamma$  from  $\beta$  is a sequence of direct derivations of the form  $\delta_0 \Rightarrow \delta_1 \Rightarrow \ldots \Rightarrow \delta_n$  where  $\delta_0 = \beta$ ,  $\delta_n = \gamma$ , and  $\delta_{i-1} \Rightarrow \delta_i$  for every  $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$  (notation:  $\beta \Rightarrow^* \gamma$ ).



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- A word  $w \in \Sigma^*$  is called derivable in G if  $S \Rightarrow^* w$ .
- The language generated by G is  $L(G) := \{ w \in \Sigma^* \mid S \Rightarrow^* w \}$ .
- A language  $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$  is called context-free (CFL) if it is generated by some CFG.
- Two grammars  $G_1$ ,  $G_2$  are equivalent if  $L(G_1) = L(G_2)$ .





### Example C.5

The language

$$\{a^nb^n\mid n\in\mathbb{N}\}$$

is context-free. It is generated by the grammar  $G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  with

- N = {S}
- $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$
- $P = \{S \rightarrow aSb \mid \varepsilon\}$

(proof: generating  $a^nb^n$  requires exactly n applications of the first and one concluding application of the second rule)





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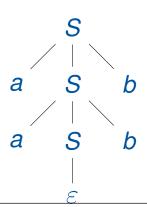
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Remark: illustration of derivations by derivation trees

- root labelled by start symbol
- leaves labelled by terminal symbols
- successors of node labelled according to right-hand side of production rule
- sequence of leaf symbols = generated word







# **Summary: Context-Free Grammars and Languages**

#### Seen:

- Context-free grammars
- Derivations
- Context-free languages





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- Context-free languages

#### **Next:**

Relation between context-free and regular languages





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### **Context-Free vs. Regular Languages**

#### Theorem C.6

- 1. Every regular language is context-free.
- 2. There exist CFLs which are not regular.

(Thus: regular languages are a proper subset of CFLs.)





# **Context-Free vs. Regular Languages**

#### Theorem C.6

- 1. Every regular language is context-free.
- 2. There exist CFLs which are not regular.

(Thus: regular languages are a proper subset of CFLs.)

#### Proof.

- 1. Let L be a regular language, and let  $\mathfrak{A} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F \rangle$  be a DFA which recognises L.  $G_{\mathfrak{A}} := \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  is defined as follows:
  - $-N:=Q, S:=q_0$
  - if  $\delta(q, a) = q'$ , then  $q \to aq' \in P$
  - if q ∈ F, then q  $\rightarrow$  ε ∈ P

Obviously a w-labelled run in  $\mathfrak{A}$  from  $q_0$  to F corresponds to a derivation of w in  $G_{\mathfrak{A}}$ , and vice versa. Thus  $L(\mathfrak{A}) = L(G_{\mathfrak{A}})$  (example on the following slide).

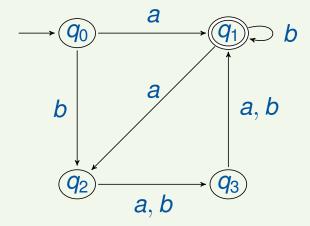
2. An example is  $\{a^nb^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  (see Lesson 1). Intuitive reason for non-regularity: recognising this language requires "unbounded counting" capability.





# Example C.7

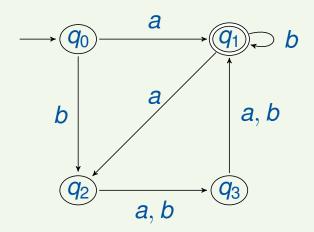
DFA  $\mathfrak{A} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F \rangle$ :





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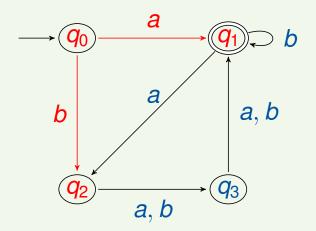


Corresponding CFG  $G_{\mathfrak{A}} := \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  with N := Q,  $S := q_0$ :



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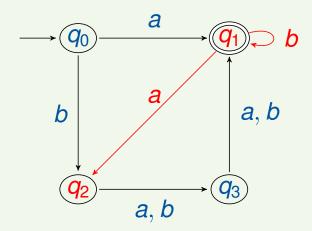


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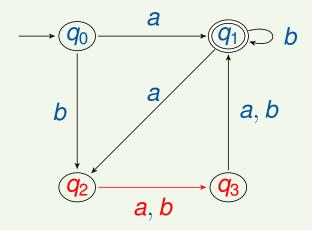
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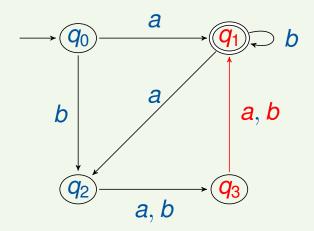
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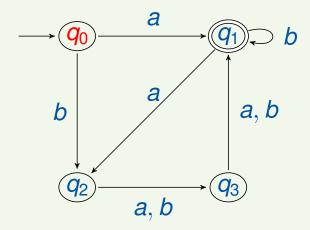
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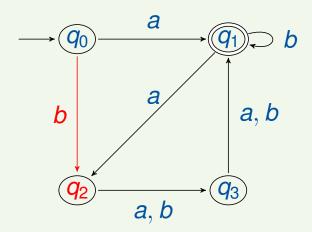
E.g.,  $\mathfrak{A}$ 's run on input  $baab \in L(\mathfrak{A})$  is simulated by the following derivation in  $G_{\mathfrak{A}}$ :

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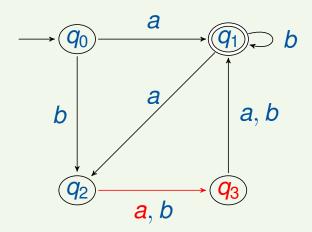
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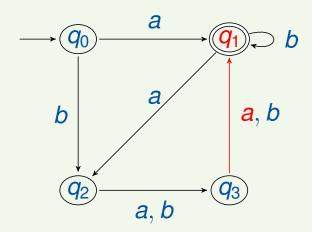
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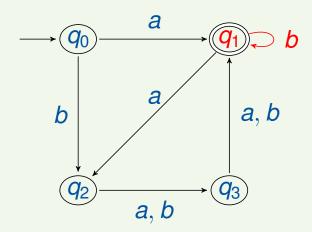
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## From Regular to Context-Free Languages

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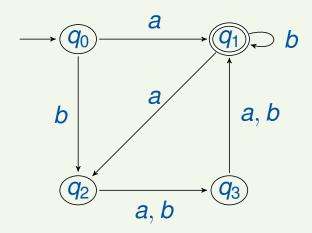
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#### **Next:**

Decidability of word problem





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- For regular languages this was easy: just let the corresponding DFA run on w.
- But here: how to decide when to stop a derivation?
- **Solution:** establish normal form for grammars which guarantees that each nonterminal produces at least one terminal symbol
- ⇒ Only finitely many combinations to be inspected





### **Chomsky Normal Form**

#### **Definition C.8**

A CFG is in Chomsky Normal Form (Chomsky NF) if every of its productions is of the form

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### Example C.9

Consider the grammar  $S \to ab \mid aSb$ , which generates  $L := \{a^nb^n \mid n \ge 1\}$ . An equivalent grammar in Chomsky NF is

```
S 	oup AB \mid AC (generates L)

A 	oup a (generates \{a\})

B 	oup b (generates \{b\})

C 	oup SB (generates \{a^nb^{n+1} \mid n \geq 1\})
```





## **Conversion to Chomsky Normal Form**

Theorem C.10

Every CFL L (without  $\varepsilon$ -productions) can be generated by a CFG in Chomsky NF.





## **Conversion to Chomsky Normal Form**

#### Theorem C.10

Every CFL L (without  $\varepsilon$ -productions) can be generated by a CFG in Chomsky NF.

#### Proof.

Let L be a CFL, and let  $G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  be some CFG which generates L. The transformation of P into rules of the form  $A \to BC$  and  $A \to a$  proceeds in three steps:

- 1. terminal symbols only in rules of the form  $A \rightarrow a$  (thus all other rules have the shape  $A \rightarrow A_1 \dots A_n$ )
- 2. elimination of "chain rules" of the form  $A \rightarrow B$
- 3. elimination of rules of the form  $A \rightarrow A_1 \dots A_n$  where n > 2

(see following slides for details)





### **Step 1: Only** $A \rightarrow a$

### **Procedure**

- 1. For every terminal symbol  $a \in \Sigma$ , introduce a new nonterminal symbol  $B_a \in N$ .
- 2. Add corresponding productions  $B_a \rightarrow a$  to P.
- 3. In each original production  $A \to \alpha$ , replace every  $a \in \Sigma$  with  $B_a$ .

This yields G'.



### **Step 1: Only** $A \rightarrow a$

#### **Procedure**

- 1. For every terminal symbol  $a \in \Sigma$ , introduce a new nonterminal symbol  $B_a \in N$ .
- 2. Add corresponding productions  $B_a \rightarrow a$  to P.
- 3. In each original production  $A \to \alpha$ , replace every  $a \in \Sigma$  with  $B_a$ .

This yields G'.

## Example C.11

$$G: S \rightarrow ab \mid aSb$$

is converted to

$$G': S \rightarrow AB \mid ASB$$

$$A \rightarrow a$$

$$B \rightarrow b$$





### **Step 2: Elimination of Chain Rules** $A \rightarrow B$

#### Procedure

- 1. Determine all derivations  $A_1 \Rightarrow ... \Rightarrow A_n$  with rules of the form  $A \to B$  without repetition of nonterminals ( $\Longrightarrow$  only finitely many!).
- 2. Determine all productions  $A_n \to \alpha$  with  $\alpha \notin N$ .
- 3. Add corresponding productions  $A_1 \rightarrow \alpha$  to P.
- 4. Remove all chain rules from P.

This yields G''.



### **Step 2: Elimination of Chain Rules** A o B

#### Procedure

- 1. Determine all derivations  $A_1 \Rightarrow ... \Rightarrow A_n$  with rules of the form  $A \to B$  without repetition of nonterminals ( $\Longrightarrow$  only finitely many!).
- 2. Determine all productions  $A_n \to \alpha$  with  $\alpha \notin N$ .
- 3. Add corresponding productions  $A_1 \rightarrow \alpha$  to P.
- 4. Remove all chain rules from P.

This yields G''.

$$G': S \rightarrow A$$
 $A \rightarrow B \mid C$ 
 $B \rightarrow A \mid DA$ 
 $C \rightarrow c$ 
 $D \rightarrow d$ 



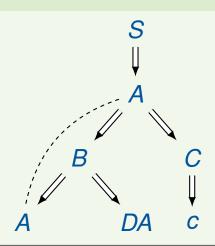
### **Step 2: Elimination of Chain Rules** $A \rightarrow B$

#### Procedure

- 1. Determine all derivations  $A_1 \Rightarrow ... \Rightarrow A_n$  with rules of the form  $A \to B$  without repetition of nonterminals ( $\Longrightarrow$  only finitely many!).
- 2. Determine all productions  $A_n \to \alpha$  with  $\alpha \notin N$ .
- 3. Add corresponding productions  $A_1 \rightarrow \alpha$  to P.
- 4. Remove all chain rules from P.

This yields G''.

$$G': S \rightarrow A$$
 $A \rightarrow B \mid C$ 
 $B \rightarrow A \mid DA$ 
 $C \rightarrow C$ 
 $D \rightarrow d$ 







### **Step 2: Elimination of Chain Rules** A o B

#### Procedure

- 1. Determine all derivations  $A_1 \Rightarrow ... \Rightarrow A_n$  with rules of the form  $A \to B$  without repetition of nonterminals ( $\Longrightarrow$  only finitely many!).
- 2. Determine all productions  $A_n \to \alpha$  with  $\alpha \notin N$ .
- 3. Add corresponding productions  $A_1 \rightarrow \alpha$  to P.
- 4. Remove all chain rules from P.

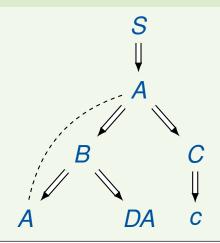
This yields G''.

## Example C.12

$$G': S \rightarrow A$$
 $A \rightarrow B \mid C$ 
 $B \rightarrow A \mid DA$ 
 $C \rightarrow C$ 
 $D \rightarrow d$ 

### is converted to

$$G'': S \rightarrow DA \mid c$$
 $A \rightarrow DA \mid c$ 
 $B \rightarrow DA \mid c$ 
 $C \rightarrow C$ 
 $D \rightarrow d$ 







### **Step 3: Elimination of Rules** $A \rightarrow A_1 \dots A_n$ **with** n > 2

#### **Procedure**

Iteratively apply the following transformation:

- 1. For every  $A \to A_1 \dots A_n$  with n > 2, introduce a new nonterminal symbol  $B \in N$ .
- 2. Replace original production by  $A \rightarrow A_1 B$ .
- 3. Add new production  $B \rightarrow A_2 \dots A_n$ .

This yields G'''.



## **Step 3: Elimination of Rules** $A \rightarrow A_1 \dots A_n$ **with** n > 2

#### **Procedure**

Iteratively apply the following transformation:

- 1. For every  $A \to A_1 \dots A_n$  with n > 2, introduce a new nonterminal symbol  $B \in N$ .
- 2. Replace original production by  $A \rightarrow A_1B$ .
- 3. Add new production  $B \rightarrow A_2 \dots A_n$ .

This yields G'''.

### Example C.13

$$G'': S \rightarrow AB \mid ASB$$
  
 $A \rightarrow a$   
 $B \rightarrow b$ 

$$G''': S \rightarrow AB \mid AC$$
 $A \rightarrow a$ 
 $B \rightarrow b$ 

 $C \rightarrow SB$ 





## **Summary: Chomsky Normal Form**

#### Seen:

• Chomsky NF: all productions of the form  $A \rightarrow BC$  or  $A \rightarrow a$ 



## **Summary: Chomsky Normal Form**

#### Seen:

• Chomsky NF: all productions of the form  $A \rightarrow BC$  or  $A \rightarrow a$ 

#### **Next:**

Exploit Chomsky Normal Form to solve word problem for CFL





#### **Outline of Part C**

Context-Free Grammars and Languages

Context-Free vs. Regular Languages

**Chomsky Normal Form** 

The Word Problem for Context-Free Languages

The Emptiness Problem for Context-Free Languages

Closure Properties of Context-Free Languages

Pushdown Automata

Pushdown Automata and Context-Free Languages





#### Word Problem for $\varepsilon$ -free CFL

Given CFG  $G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  such that  $\varepsilon \notin L(G)$  and  $w \in \Sigma^+$ , decide whether  $w \in L(G)$  or not.

(If  $w = \varepsilon$ , then  $w \in L(G)$  easily decidable for arbitrary G)





#### Word Problem for $\varepsilon$ -free CFL

Given CFG  $G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  such that  $\varepsilon \notin L(G)$  and  $w \in \Sigma^+$ , decide whether  $w \in L(G)$  or not.

(If  $w = \varepsilon$ , then  $w \in L(G)$  easily decidable for arbitrary G)

### Algorithm C.14 (by Cocke, Younger, Kasami – CYK algorithm)

- 1. Transform G into Chomsky NF
- 2. Let  $w = a_1 \dots a_n \ (n \ge 1)$
- 3. Let  $w[i,j] := a_i \dots a_j$  for every  $1 \le i \le j \le n$
- 4. Consider segments w[i,j] in order of increasing length, starting with  $w[i,i] = a_i$  (i.e., letters)
- 5. In each case, determine  $N_{i,j} := \{A \in N \mid A \Rightarrow^* w[i,j]\}$  using a "dynamic programming" approach:

```
-i = j: N_{i,i} = \{A \in N \mid A \to a_i \in P\} 
- i < j: N_{i,j} = \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N, k \in \{i, \dots, j-1\} : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{i,k}, C \in N_{k+1,j}\}
```

6. Test whether  $S \in N_{1,n}$  (and thus, whether  $S \Rightarrow^* w[1, n] = w$ )





	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	• • •	$a_n$
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3		n
1	<i>N</i> <sub>1,1</sub>	N <sub>1,2</sub>	N <sub>1,3</sub>		$N_{1,n}$
2	X	$N_{2,2}$	$N_{2,3}$		$N_{2,n}$
3	X	X	$N_{3,3}$		$N_{3,n}$
:	:	÷			:
n	X	X	• • •		$N_{n,n}$





$$N_{1,1} = \{ A \in N \mid A \to a_1 \in P \} 
 N_{2,2} = \{ A \in N \mid A \to a_2 \in P \}$$

	$a_1$	$a_2$	<b>a</b> <sub>3</sub>	• • •	$a_n$
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3		n
1	<i>N</i> <sub>1,1</sub>	<i>N</i> <sub>1,2</sub>	N <sub>1,3</sub>		$N_{1,n}$
2	X	$N_{2,2}$	$N_{2,3}$		$N_{2,n}$
3	X	X	$N_{3,3}$		$N_{3,n}$
i	:	÷			:
n	X	X		• • •	$N_{n,n}$



$$N_{1,1} = \{A \in N \mid A \to a_1 \in P\}$$
  
 $N_{2,2} = \{A \in N \mid A \to a_2 \in P\}$   
 $\vdots$   
 $N_{1,2} = \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{1,1}, C \in N_{2,2}\}$   
 $N_{2,3} = \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{2,2}, C \in N_{3,3}\}$ 





$$N_{1,1} = \{A \in N \mid A \to a_1 \in P\}$$

$$N_{2,2} = \{A \in N \mid A \to a_2 \in P\}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$N_{1,2} = \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{1,1}, C \in N_{2,2}\}$$

$$N_{2,3} = \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{2,2}, C \in N_{3,3}\}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$N_{1,3} = \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{1,1}, C \in N_{2,3}\}$$

$$\cup \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{1,2}, C \in N_{3,3}\}$$

$$V_{2,4} = \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{2,2}, C \in N_{3,4}\}$$

$$\cup \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{2,2}, C \in N_{3,4}\}$$

$$\cup \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{2,2}, C \in N_{3,4}\}$$

$$\cup \{A \in N \mid \exists B, C \in N : A \to BC \in P, B \in N_{2,3}, C \in N_{4,4}\}$$

$$\vdots$$





- $G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$   $A \rightarrow BS$  $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$
- w = abaaba



- $G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$   $A \rightarrow BS$  $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$
- w = abaaba

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1						
2	X					
3	X	X				
4	X	X	X			
5	X	X	X	X		
6	X	X	X	X	X	



- $G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$   $A \rightarrow BS$  $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$
- w = abaaba

	а	b	a	а	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <b>S</b> }					
2	X					
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$			
4	X	X	X	$\{{\cal S}\}$		
5	X	X	X	X		
6	X	X	X	X	X	{ <b>S</b> }



- $G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$   $A \rightarrow BS$  $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$
- w = abaaba

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }					
2	X	$\{{\it B}\}$				
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$			
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$		
5	X	X	X	X	$\{{\it B}\}$	
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



- $G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$   $A \rightarrow BS$  $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$
- w = abaaba

	а	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{S}	Ø				
2	X	{ <i>B</i> }				
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø		
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	
5	X	X	X	X	$\{B\}$	
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

• w = abaaba

	а	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø				
2	X	$\{{\it B}\}$	{ <b>A</b> }			
3	X	X		Ø		
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø	
5	X	X	X	X	$\{{\it B}\}$	{ <b>A</b> }
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



- $G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$   $A \rightarrow BS$  $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$
- w = abaaba

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø				
2	X	{ <i>B</i> }	$\{A, B\}$			
3	X	X	$\{{m S}\}$	$\emptyset$		
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	
5	X	X	X	X	$\{{\it B}\}$	$\{m{A},m{B}\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }			
2	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$			
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø		
4	X	X	X	{ <i>S</i> }	$\emptyset$	$\{{\cal S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }			
2	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A, B\}$	<b>{A</b> }		
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$		
4	X	X	X	$\{{m S}\}$	Ø	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }			
2	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A, B\}$	$\{A, B\}$		
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$		
4	X	X	X	$\{{m S}\}$	Ø	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }			
2	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$	$\{A,B\}$		
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	Ø	
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	$\{{\it B}\}$	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }	{ <i>S</i> }		
2	X	$\{B\}$	{ <i>A</i> , <i>B</i> }	$\{A,B\}$		
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	Ø	
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }	{ <i>S</i> }		
2	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$	$\{A, B\}$	$\{{\it B}\}$	
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	Ø	
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	{ <b>B</b> }	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }	{ <i>S</i> }		
2	X	$\{B\}$	{ <i>A</i> , <i>B</i> }	$\{A,B\}$	$\{B\}$	
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	Ø	$\emptyset$
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	
2	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$	$\{A,B\}$	$\{B\}$	
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	Ø	$\emptyset$
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	<i>{B}</i>	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }	<i>{S}</i>	Ø	
2	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A, B\}$	$\{A,B\}$	$\{{\it B}\}$	{ <b>A</b> }
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	Ø	$\emptyset$
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø	$\{{\cal S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	
2	X	$\{B\}$	{ <i>A</i> , <i>B</i> }	$\{A,B\}$	$\{B\}$	$\{\pmb{A}, \pmb{B}\}$
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	Ø	$\emptyset$
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	<i>{B}</i>	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



# Example C.15

• 
$$G: S \rightarrow SA \mid a$$
  
 $A \rightarrow BS$   
 $B \rightarrow BB \mid BS \mid b \mid c$ 

	a	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }
2	X	$\{B\}$	{ <i>A</i> , <i>B</i> }	$\{A,B\}$	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	Ø	$\emptyset$
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$



## Example C.15

$$ullet$$
  $G:\ S
ightarrow SA\mid a$   $A
ightarrow BS$   $B
ightarrow BB\mid BS\mid b\mid c$ 

	а	b	a	a	b	a
$i \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }	{ <i>S</i> }	Ø	{ <i>S</i> }
2	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$	$\{A,B\}$	$\{{\it B}\}$	$\{A,B\}$
3	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	$\emptyset$	Ø	$\emptyset$
4	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$	Ø	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$
5	X	X	X	X	$\{B\}$	$\{A,B\}$
6	X	X	X	X	X	$\{\mathcal{S}\}$

$$S \in N_{1,6} \implies w = abaaba \in L(G)$$





### **Summary: The Word Problem for Context-Free Languages**

#### Seen:

- Given CFG G and  $w \in \Sigma^*$ , decide whether  $w \in L(G)$  or not
- Decidable using CYK algorithm (based on dynamic programming)
- Cubic complexity





### **Summary: The Word Problem for Context-Free Languages**

#### Seen:

- Given CFG G and  $w \in \Sigma^*$ , decide whether  $w \in L(G)$  or not
- Decidable using CYK algorithm (based on dynamic programming)
- Cubic complexity

#### **Next:**

Emptiness problem





#### **Outline of Part C**

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Pushdown Automata and Context-Free Languages





## **The Emptiness Problem**

## **Emptiness Problem for CFL**

Given CFG  $G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$ , decide whether  $L(G) = \emptyset$  or not.



### **The Emptiness Problem**

### **Emptiness Problem for CFL**

Given CFG  $G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$ , decide whether  $L(G) = \emptyset$  or not.

- Important problem with many applications
  - consistency of context-free language definitions
  - correctness properties of recursive programs

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- For regular languages this was easy: check in the corresponding DFA whether some final state is reachable from the initial state.
- Here: test whether start symbol is productive, i.e., whether it generates a terminal word





### Algorithm C.16 (Emptiness Test)

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Input: G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle
Question: L(G) = \emptyset?

Procedure: mark every a \in \Sigma as productive; repeat
    if there is A \to \alpha \in P such that all symbols in \alpha productive then mark A as productive end until no further productive symbols found;

Output: "no" if S productive, otherwise "yes"
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1. Initialisation





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- 2. 1st iteration





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$$G: S o AB \mid CA$$
 1. Initialisation  $A o a$  2. 1st iteration  $B o BC \mid AB$  3. 2nd iteration  $C o aB \mid b$   $S$  productive  $\implies L(G) \neq \emptyset$ 





## **Summary: The Emptiness Problem for Context-Free Languages**

#### Seen:

• Emptiness problem decidable based on productivity of symbols



## **Summary: The Emptiness Problem for Context-Free Languages**

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#### **Next:**

Closure properties of CFLs





#### **Outline of Part C**

Context-Free Grammars and Languages

Context-Free vs. Regular Languages

**Chomsky Normal Form** 

The Word Problem for Context-Free Languages

The Emptiness Problem for Context-Free Languages

Closure Properties of Context-Free Languages

Pushdown Automata

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Theorem C.18

The set of CFLs is closed under concatenation, union, and iteration.





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For i = 1, 2, let  $G_i = \langle N_i, \Sigma, P_i, S_i \rangle$  with  $L_i := L(G_i)$  and  $N_1 \cap N_2 = \emptyset$ , and let  $S \notin N_1 \cup N_2$  be a fresh nonterminal. Then



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•  $L_1^*$  is generated by  $G := \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  with  $N := \{S\} \cup N_1$  and

$$P := \{S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid S_1 S\} \cup P_1$$





# **Negative Results**

Theorem C.19

The set of CFLs is not closed under intersection and complement.





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The set of CFLs is not closed under intersection and complement.

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Intersection: both

$$L_1 := \{a^k b^k c^l \mid k, l \in \mathbb{N}\}$$
 (generated by  $S \to AC, A \to aAb \mid \varepsilon, C \to Cc \mid \varepsilon$ )

and

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(without proof).

• Complement: if CFLs were closed under complement, then also under intersection (as  $L_1 \cap L_2 = \overline{L_1 \cup L_2}$ ).





## **Overview of Decidability and Closure Results**

Decidability Results						
Class	$w \in L$	$L = \emptyset$	$L_1 = L_2$			
Reg	+	+	+			
CFL	+	+	_			



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Class	$w \in L$	$L = \emptyset$	$L_1 = L_2$			
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Closure Results							
Class	$L_1 \cdot L_2$	$L_1 \cup L_2$	$L_1 \cap L_2$	L	<b>L</b> *		
Reg	+	+	+	+	+		
CFL	+	+	_	_	+		



### **Summary: Closure Properties of Context-Free Languages**

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- Closure under concatenation, union and iteration
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Automata model for CFLs





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#### Pushdown Automata

Pushdown Automata and Context-Free Languages





#### **Pushdown Automata I**

- Goal: introduce an automata model which exactly accepts CFLs
- Clear: DFA not sufficient (missing "counting capability", e.g. for  $\{a^nb^n \mid n \ge 1\}$ )



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- Goal: introduce an automata model which exactly accepts CFLs
- Clear: DFA not sufficient (missing "counting capability", e.g. for  $\{a^nb^n \mid n \ge 1\}$ )
- DFA will be extended to pushdown automata by
  - adding a pushdown store which stores symbols from a pushdown alphabet and uses a special bottom symbol
  - adding push and pop operations to transitions





#### **Pushdown Automata II**

#### **Definition C.20**

A pushdown automaton (PDA) is of the form  $\mathfrak{A} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  where

- Q is a finite set of states
- ∑ is the (finite) input alphabet
- Γ is the (finite) pushdown alphabet
- $\Delta \subseteq (Q \times \Gamma \times \Sigma_{\varepsilon}) \times (Q \times \Gamma^*)$  is a finite set of transitions
- $q_0 \in Q$  is the initial state
- Z<sub>0</sub> is the (pushdown) bottom symbol
- F ⊆ Q is a set of final states

Interpretation of  $((q, Z, x), (q', \delta)) \in \Delta$ : if the PDA  $\mathfrak A$  is in state q where Z is on top of the stack and x is the next input symbol (or empty), then  $\mathfrak A$  reads x, replaces Z by  $\delta$ , and changes into the state q'.





#### **Configurations, Runs, Acceptance**

#### **Definition C.21**

Let  $\mathfrak{A} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  be a PDA.

- An element of  $Q \times \Gamma^* \times \Sigma^*$  is called a configuration of  $\mathfrak{A}$ .
- The initial configuration for input  $w \in \Sigma^*$  is given by  $(q_0, Z_0, w)$ .
- The set of final configurations is given by  $F \times \{\varepsilon\} \times \{\varepsilon\}$ .
- If  $((q, Z, x), (q', \delta)) \in \Delta$ , then  $(q, Z\gamma, xw) \vdash (q', \delta\gamma, w)$  for every  $\gamma \in \Gamma^*$ ,  $w \in \Sigma^*$ .



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- $\mathfrak{A}$  accepts  $w \in \Sigma^*$  if  $(q_0, Z_0, w) \vdash^* (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$  for some  $q \in F$ .
- The language accepted by  $\mathfrak A$  is  $L(\mathfrak A):=\{w\in\Sigma^*\mid \mathfrak A \text{ accepts }w\}.$
- A language L is called PDA-recognisable if  $L = L(\mathfrak{A})$  for some PDA  $\mathfrak{A}$ .
- Two PDA  $\mathfrak{A}_1, \mathfrak{A}_2$  are called equivalent if  $L(\mathfrak{A}_1) = L(\mathfrak{A}_2)$ .





# Example C.22 (PDA for $L = \{a^nb^n \mid n \ge 1\}$ )

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  - $-(q_1, Z_0, b)$ : more b's than a's

**–** ..

(remember: if 
$$((q, Z, x), (q', \delta)) \in \Delta$$
, then  $(q, Z\gamma, xw) \vdash (q', \delta\gamma, w)$ )

$$(q_0, Z_0, aabb) \vdash (q_0, ZZ_0, abb) \vdash (q_0, ZZZ_0, bb) \vdash (q_1, ZZ_0, b) \vdash (q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon)$$





## Example C.22 (PDA for $L = \{a^nb^n \mid n \ge 1\}$ )

 $\mathfrak{A} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  is given by

- $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$ 
  - $-q_0$ : construction of PD while reading a's
  - $-q_1$ : deconstruction while reading b's
  - $-q_2$ : accepting state
- $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$
- $\Gamma = \{Z_0, Z\}$ 
  - $-Z_0 = bottom$
  - # Z on PD = # a # b read so far
- $F = \{q_2\}$

- $\Delta$ :  $((q_0, Z_0, a), (q_0, ZZ_0))$  read first a  $((q_0, Z, a), (q_0, ZZ))$  read following a's  $((q_0, Z, b), (q_1, \varepsilon))$  read first b  $((q_1, Z, b), (q_1, \varepsilon))$  read following b's  $((q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_2, \varepsilon))$  change to final state
- Observation: no transitions for
  - $-(q_0, Z_0, b)$ : input must start with a
  - $-(q_1, Z, a)$ : no a's following b's
  - $-(q_1, Z_0, b)$ : more b's than a's

**–** ..

Accepting run of PDA for input w = aabb:

(remember: if  $((q, Z, x), (q', \delta)) \in \Delta$ , then  $(q, Z\gamma, xw) \vdash (q', \delta\gamma, w)$ )

$$(q_0, Z_0, aabb) \vdash (q_0, ZZ_0, abb) \vdash (q_0, ZZZ_0, bb) \vdash (q_1, ZZ_0, b) \vdash (q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon) \vdash (q_2, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$





# Example C.23 (PDA for $L = \{ww^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$ (palindromes of even length))

Idea: 1. 21 pushes input w

- 2. switches nondeterministically to the  $w^R$  recognition phase
- 3. compares w and  $w^R$  symbol-wise by matching steps
- 4. accepts with empty pushdown





# Example C.23 (PDA for $L = \{ww^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$ (palindromes of even length))

Idea: 1. 21 pushes input w

- 2. switches nondeterministically to the  $w^R$  recognition phase
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- 4. accepts with empty pushdown

Formally:  $\mathfrak{A} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$ 

• 
$$Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$$



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Idea: 1.  $\mathfrak{A}$  pushes input w

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$$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$$

• 
$$\Gamma = \{Z_0, a, b\}$$

• 
$$F = \{q_2\}$$

• 
$$\Delta$$
:  $((q_0, Z, c), (q_0, cZ))$  for  $Z \in \Gamma, c \in \Sigma$  (1)

$$((q_0, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon)) \quad \text{for } c \in \Sigma$$
 (2)

$$((q_0, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_1, Z_0)) \tag{2}$$

$$((q_1, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon)) \quad \text{for } c \in \Sigma$$
 (3)

$$((q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_2, \varepsilon)) \tag{4}$$



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Formally: 
$$\mathfrak{A} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$$

• 
$$Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$$

• 
$$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$$

• 
$$\Gamma = \{Z_0, a, b\}$$

• 
$$F = \{q_2\}$$

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$$\Delta$$
:  $((q_0, Z, c), (q_0, cZ))$  for  $Z \in \Gamma, c \in \Sigma$  (1)

$$((q_0, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon)) \quad \text{for } c \in \Sigma$$
 (2)

$$((q_0, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_1, Z_0)) \tag{2}$$

$$((q_1, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon)) \quad \text{for } c \in \Sigma$$
 (3)

$$((q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_2, \varepsilon)) \tag{4}$$

$$(q_0, Z_0, abba)$$





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Formally: 
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• 
$$\Gamma = \{Z_0, a, b\}$$

• 
$$F = \{q_2\}$$

• 
$$\Delta$$
:  $((q_0, Z, c), (q_0, cZ))$  for  $Z \in \Gamma, c \in \Sigma$  (1)

$$((q_0, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon)) \quad \text{for } c \in \Sigma$$
 (2)

$$((q_0, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_1, Z_0)) \tag{2}$$

$$((q_1, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon)) \quad \text{for } c \in \Sigma$$
 (3)

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$$(q_0, Z_0, abba) \vdash (q_0, aZ_0, bba)$$





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• 
$$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$$

• 
$$\Gamma = \{Z_0, a, b\}$$

• 
$$F = \{q_2\}$$

• 
$$\Delta$$
:  $((q_0, Z, c), (q_0, cZ))$  for  $Z \in \Gamma, c \in \Sigma$  (1)

$$((q_0, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon))$$
 for  $c \in \Sigma$  (2)

$$((q_0, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_1, Z_0)) \tag{2}$$

$$((q_1, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon)) \quad \text{for } c \in \Sigma$$
 (3)

$$((q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_2, \varepsilon)) \tag{4}$$

$$(q_0, Z_0, abba) \vdash (q_0, aZ_0, bba) \vdash (q_0, baZ_0, ba)$$



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 for  $c \in \Sigma$  (2)

$$((q_0, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_1, Z_0)) \tag{2}$$

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$$\Gamma = \{Z_0, a, b\}$$

• 
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$$((q_1, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon))$$
 for  $c \in \Sigma$  (3)

$$((q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_2, \varepsilon)) \tag{4}$$

$$(q_0, Z_0, abba) \vdash (q_0, aZ_0, bba) \vdash (q_0, baZ_0, ba) \vdash (q_1, aZ_0, a) \vdash (q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon)$$



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Formally: 
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$$((q_0, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_1, Z_0)) \tag{2}$$

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 (3)

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$$(q_0, Z_0, abba) \vdash (q_0, aZ_0, bba) \vdash (q_0, baZ_0, ba) \vdash (q_1, aZ_0, a) \vdash (q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon) \vdash (q_2, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$



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Formally: 
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 (2)

$$((q_0, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_1, Z_0)) \tag{2}$$

$$((q_1, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon)) \quad \text{for } c \in \Sigma$$
 (3)

$$((q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_2, \varepsilon)) \tag{4}$$

Accepting run of PDA for input w = abba:

$$(q_0, Z_0, abba) \vdash (q_0, aZ_0, bba) \vdash (q_0, baZ_0, ba) \vdash (q_1, aZ_0, a) \vdash (q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon) \vdash (q_2, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

**Observation:**  $\mathfrak{A}$  is nondeterministic – in a configuration of the form  $(q_0, cv, cw)$   $(c \in \Sigma, v, w \in \Sigma^*)$ , both (1) and (2) are applicable.





# Example C.23 (PDA for $L = \{ww^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$ (palindromes of even length))

- Idea: 1.  $\mathfrak{A}$  pushes input w
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Formally: 
$$\mathfrak{A} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$$

• 
$$Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$$

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$$((q_0, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon))$$
 for  $c \in \Sigma$  (2)

$$((q_0, Z_0, \varepsilon), (q_1, Z_0)) \tag{2}$$

$$((q_1, c, c), (q_1, \varepsilon)) \quad \text{for } c \in \Sigma$$
 (3)

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Accepting run of PDA for input w = abba:

$$(q_0, Z_0, abba) \vdash (q_0, aZ_0, bba) \vdash (q_0, baZ_0, ba) \vdash (q_1, aZ_0, a) \vdash (q_1, Z_0, \varepsilon) \vdash (q_2, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

**Observation:**  $\mathfrak{A}$  is nondeterministic – in a configuration of the form  $(q_0, cv, cw)$   $(c \in \Sigma, v, w \in \Sigma^*)$ , both (1) and (2) are applicable. This yields rejecting runs, e.g.,  $(q_0, Z_0, abba) \vdash (q_0, aZ_0, bba) \vdash (q_0, baZ_0, ba) \vdash (q_0, bbaZ_0, a) \vdash (q_0, abbaZ_0, \varepsilon) \nvdash$ 





#### **Deterministic PDA**

#### **Definition C.24**

A PDA  $\mathfrak{A} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  is called deterministic (DPDA) if for every  $q \in Q, Z \in \Gamma$ ,

- 1. for every  $x \in \Sigma_{\varepsilon}$ , there is at most one (q, Z, x)-transition in  $\Delta$  and
- 2. if there is a (q, Z, a)-transition in  $\Delta$  for some  $a \in \Sigma$ , then there is no  $(q, Z, \varepsilon)$ -transition in  $\Delta$ .

#### **Remark:** this excludes two types of nondeterminism:

- 1. if  $((q, Z, x), (q'_1, \delta_1)), ((q, Z, x), (q'_2, \delta_2)) \in \Delta$ :  $(q'_1, \delta_1 \gamma, w) \dashv (q, Z\gamma, xw) \vdash (q'_2, \delta_2 \gamma, w)$
- 2. if  $((q, Z, a), (q'_1, \delta_1)), ((q, Z, \varepsilon), (q'_2, \delta_2)) \in \Delta$ :  $(q'_1, \delta_1 \gamma, w) \dashv (q, Z\gamma, aw) \vdash (q'_2, \delta_2 \gamma, aw)$





#### **Deterministic PDA**

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- 1. for every  $x \in \Sigma_{\varepsilon}$ , there is at most one (q, Z, x)-transition in  $\Delta$  and
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#### **Remark:** this excludes two types of nondeterminism:

- 1. if  $((q, Z, x), (q'_1, \delta_1)), ((q, Z, x), (q'_2, \delta_2)) \in \Delta$ :  $(q'_1, \delta_1 \gamma, w) \dashv (q, Z\gamma, xw) \vdash (q'_2, \delta_2 \gamma, w)$
- 2. if  $((q, Z, a), (q'_1, \delta_1)), ((q, Z, \varepsilon), (q'_2, \delta_2)) \in \Delta$ :  $(q'_1, \delta_1 \gamma, w) \dashv (q, Z\gamma, aw) \vdash (q'_2, \delta_2 \gamma, aw)$

#### Corollary C.25

In a DPDA, every configuration has at most one ⊢-successor.





#### **Expressiveness of DPDA**

One can show: determinism restricts the set of acceptable languages (DPDA-recognisable languages are closed under complement, which is generally not true for PDA-recognisable languages)





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One can show: determinism restricts the set of acceptable languages (DPDA-recognisable languages are closed under complement, which is generally not true for PDA-recognisable languages)

#### Example C.26

The set of palindromes of even length is PDA-recognisable, but not DPDA-recognisable (without proof).





#### **Summary: Pushdown Automata**

#### Seen:

- Extension of finite automata by pushdown store
- Enables "counting" (e.g.,  $\{a^nb^n \mid n \ge 1\}$ )
- Determinism restricts expressivity (in contrast to finite automata)





#### **Summary: Pushdown Automata**

#### Seen:

- Extension of finite automata by pushdown store
- Enables "counting" (e.g.,  $\{a^nb^n \mid n \ge 1\}$ )
- Determinism restricts expressivity (in contrast to finite automata)

#### **Next:**

Relation between PDA and context-free languages





#### **Outline of Part C**

Context-Free Grammars and Languages

Context-Free vs. Regular Languages

**Chomsky Normal Form** 

The Word Problem for Context-Free Languages

The Emptiness Problem for Context-Free Languages

Closure Properties of Context-Free Languages

Pushdown Automata

Pushdown Automata and Context-Free Languages





#### Theorem C.27

A language is context-free iff it is PDA-recognisable.





#### Theorem C.27

A language is context-free iff it is PDA-recognisable.

#### Proof.

"←": omitted

" $\Rightarrow$ ": let  $G = \langle N, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  be a CFG. Construction of PDA  $\mathfrak{A}_G$  recognising L(G):

- $\mathfrak{A}_G$  simulates a derivation of G where always the leftmost nonterminal of a sentence is replaced ("leftmost derivation")
- begin with S on pushdown
- if nonterminal on top: apply a corresponding production rule
- if terminal on top: match with next input symbol

(cf. formal construction on following slide)







#### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

" $\Rightarrow$ ": Formally,  $\mathfrak{A}_G := \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  is given by

- $Q := \{q_0\}$
- $\Gamma := N \cup \Sigma$
- $Z_0 := S$

- for each  $A \to \alpha \in P$ :  $((q_0, A, \varepsilon), (q_0, \alpha)) \in \Delta$  ("expansion")
- for each  $a \in \Sigma$ :  $((q_0, a, a), (q_0, \varepsilon)) \in \Delta$  ("matching")
- *F* := *Q*







#### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

" $\Rightarrow$ ": Formally,  $\mathfrak{A}_G := \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  is given by

•  $Q := \{q_0\}$ 

• for each  $A \to \alpha \in P$ :  $((q_0, A, \varepsilon), (q_0, \alpha)) \in \Delta$  ("expansion")

•  $\Gamma := N \cup \Sigma$ 

• for each  $a \in \Sigma$ :  $((q_0, a, a), (q_0, \varepsilon)) \in \Delta$  ("matching")

•  $Z_0 := S$ 

• *F* := *Q* 

## Example C.28 ("Bracket language" given by $G: S \rightarrow \langle \rangle \mid \langle S \rangle \mid SS$ )

 $\mathfrak{A}_G = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  with

- $Q = F = \{q_0\}$
- $\Sigma = \{\langle, \rangle\}, \Gamma = \{S, \langle, \rangle\}$
- $\bullet$   $Z_0 = S$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \bullet \ \Delta \colon ((q_0,S,\varepsilon),(q_0,\langle\rangle)) & ((q_0,\langle,\langle),(q_0,\varepsilon)) \\ & ((q_0,S,\varepsilon),(q_0,\langle S\rangle)) & ((q_0,\rangle,\rangle),(q_0,\varepsilon)) \\ & ((q_0,S,\varepsilon),(q_0,SS)) \end{array}$ 



### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

" $\Rightarrow$ ": Formally,  $\mathfrak{A}_G := \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  is given by

•  $Q := \{q_0\}$ 

• for each  $A \to \alpha \in P$ :  $((q_0, A, \varepsilon), (q_0, \alpha)) \in \Delta$  ("expansion")

•  $\Gamma := N \cup \Sigma$ 

• for each  $a \in \Sigma$ :  $((q_0, a, a), (q_0, \varepsilon)) \in \Delta$  ("matching")

•  $Z_0 := S$ 

• *F* := *Q* 

# Example C.28 ("Bracket language" given by $G: S \rightarrow \langle \rangle \mid \langle S \rangle \mid SS$ )

 $\mathfrak{A}_G = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  with

- $Q = F = \{q_0\}$
- $\Sigma = \{\langle, \rangle\}, \Gamma = \{S, \langle, \rangle\}$
- $Z_0 = S$

- $\Delta$ :  $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle \rangle))$   $((q_0, \langle , \langle ), (q_0, \varepsilon))$ 
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle S \rangle)) \quad ((q_0, \rangle, \rangle), (q_0, \varepsilon))$
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$

$$(q_0, \mathcal{S}, \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle)$$



### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

" $\Rightarrow$ ": Formally,  $\mathfrak{A}_G := \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  is given by

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• for each  $A \to \alpha \in P$ :  $((q_0, A, \varepsilon), (q_0, \alpha)) \in \Delta$  ("expansion")

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• for each  $a \in \Sigma$ :  $((q_0, a, a), (q_0, \varepsilon)) \in \Delta$  ("matching")

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## Example C.28 ("Bracket language" given by $G: S \rightarrow \langle \rangle \mid \langle S \rangle \mid SS \rangle$ )

 $\mathfrak{A}_G = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  with

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- $\Sigma = \{\langle, \rangle\}, \Gamma = \{S, \langle, \rangle\}$
- $Z_0 = S$

- $\Delta$ :  $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle \rangle))$   $((q_0, \langle , \langle ), (q_0, \varepsilon))$ 
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle S \rangle)) \quad ((q_0, \rangle, \rangle), (q_0, \varepsilon))$
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$

$$(q_0, S, \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle) \vdash (q_0, SS, \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle)$$



#### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

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  - $((q_0, \mathbf{S}, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle \mathbf{S} \rangle)) \quad ((q_0, \rangle, \rangle), (q_0, \varepsilon))$
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$

$$(q_0, \mathcal{S}, \langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \vdash (q_0, \mathcal{SS}, \langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \vdash (q_0, \langle\mathcal{S}\rangle\mathcal{S}, \langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle)$$



#### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

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  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle S \rangle)) \quad ((q_0, \rangle, \rangle), (q_0, \varepsilon))$
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$

$$(q_0, \mathcal{S}, \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle) \quad \vdash \ (q_0, \mathcal{SS}, \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle) \ \vdash \ (q_0, \langle \mathcal{S} \rangle \mathcal{S}, \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle) \ \vdash \ (q_0, \mathcal{S} \rangle \mathcal{S}, \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle)$$



#### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

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 $\mathfrak{A}_G = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  with

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- $\Sigma = \{\langle, \rangle\}, \Gamma = \{S, \langle, \rangle\}$

 $((q_0,\mathcal{S},\varepsilon),(q_0,\langle\mathcal{S}\rangle)) \quad ((q_0,\rangle,\rangle),(q_0,\varepsilon))$ 

•  $Z_0 = S$ 

 $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$ 

$$(q_0, S, \langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \vdash (q_0, SS, \langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \vdash (q_0, \langle S \rangle S, \langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \vdash (q_0, S \rangle S, \langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle)$$
  
 $\vdash (q_0, \langle\rangle\rangle S, \langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle)$ 





#### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

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  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle S \rangle)) \quad ((q_0, \rangle, \rangle), (q_0, \varepsilon))$
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$

$$(q_0,S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \vdash (q_0,SS,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \vdash (q_0,\langle S\rangle S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \vdash (q_0,S\rangle S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle)$$
  
 $\vdash (q_0,\langle\rangle\rangle S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \vdash (q_0,\rangle\rangle S,\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle)$ 





#### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

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- $\bullet$   $Z_0 = S$

- $\Delta$ :  $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle \rangle))$   $((q_0, \langle , \langle ), (q_0, \varepsilon))$ 
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle S \rangle)) \quad ((q_0, \rangle, \rangle), (q_0, \varepsilon))$
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$

$$(q_0,S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash (q_0,SS,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash (q_0,\langle S 
angle S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash (q_0,\langle S 
angle S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash (q_0,\langle\rangle\rangle S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash (q_0,\langle\rangle\rangle S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash (q_0,\langle\rangle) S,\langle\rangle\langle\rangle)$$





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  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle S \rangle)) \quad ((q_0, \rangle, \rangle), (q_0, \varepsilon))$
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$

$$(q_0,S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \;dash \; (q_0,SS,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \;dash \; (q_0,\langle S
angle S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \;dash \; (q_0,\langle S
angle S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \;dash \; (q_0,\langle\rangle\rangle S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \;dash \; (q_0,\langle\rangle\rangle S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \;dash \; (q_0,\langle\rangle) S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \;dash \; (q_0,\langle\rangle) S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle)$$





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## Example C.28 ("Bracket language" given by $G: S \rightarrow \langle \rangle \mid \langle S \rangle \mid SS$ )

 $\mathfrak{A}_G = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  with

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- $\Delta$ :  $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle \rangle))$   $((q_0, \langle , \langle ), (q_0, \varepsilon))$ 
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle S \rangle)) \quad ((q_0, \rangle, \rangle), (q_0, \varepsilon))$
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$

Accepting run for input  $w = \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle$ :

$$(q_0,S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash \; (q_0,SS,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash \; (q_0,\langle S 
angle S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash \; (q_0,\langle S 
angle S,\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash \; (q_0,\langle\rangle\rangle S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash \; (q_0,\langle\rangle) S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash \; (q_0,\langle\rangle) S,\langle\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle) \; dash \; (q_0,\langle S 
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angle S$$

 $\vdash (q_0, \langle \rangle, \langle \rangle)$ 





### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

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• *F* := *Q* 

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- $\Sigma = \{\langle, \rangle\}$ ,  $\Gamma = \{S, \langle, \rangle\}$

 $((q_0, \mathcal{S}, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle \mathcal{S} \rangle)) \quad ((q_0, \rangle, \rangle), (q_0, \varepsilon))$ 

•  $Z_0 = S$ 

 $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$ 

Accepting run for input  $w = \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle$ :

$$(q_0, S, \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle) \vdash (q_0, SS, \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle) \vdash (q_0, \langle S \rangle S, \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle) \vdash (q_0, S \rangle S, \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle)$$
 $\vdash (q_0, \langle \rangle \rangle S, \langle \rangle \rangle \langle \rangle) \vdash (q_0, \rangle S, \rangle \langle \rangle) \vdash (q_0, \rangle S, \rangle \langle \rangle) \vdash (q_0, S, \langle \rangle)$ 

 $\vdash (q_0, \langle \rangle, \langle \rangle) \qquad \vdash (q_0, \rangle, \rangle)$ 



#### Proof of Theorem C.27 (continued).

" $\Rightarrow$ ": Formally,  $\mathfrak{A}_G := \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  is given by

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•  $Z_0 := S$ 

 $\bullet$  F := Q

# Example C.28 ("Bracket language" given by $G: S \rightarrow \langle \rangle \mid \langle S \rangle \mid SS \rangle$ )

 $\mathfrak{A}_G = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, Z_0, F \rangle$  with

- $Q = F = \{q_0\}$
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- $Z_0 = S$

- $\Delta$ :  $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle \rangle))$   $((q_0, \langle , \langle \rangle, (q_0, \varepsilon)))$ 
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, \langle S \rangle)) \quad ((q_0, \rangle, \rangle), (q_0, \varepsilon))$
  - $((q_0, S, \varepsilon), (q_0, SS))$

- $\vdash (q_0, \langle \rangle, \langle \rangle) \qquad \vdash (q_0, \rangle, \rangle) \qquad \vdash (q_0, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$





#### **Summary: Pushdown Automata and Context-Free Languages**

#### Seen:

- Construction of PDA for given CFG (⇒ parser generation!)
- Reverse direction also possible
- Thus: PDA and CFG equivalent





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#### Seen:

- Construction of PDA for given CFG (⇒ parser generation!)
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#### **Outlook:**

- Equivalence problem for CFG and PDA (" $L(X_1) = L(X_2)$ ?"): generally undecidable, but decidable for DPDA
- Pumping Lemma for CFL (e.g., to prove that  $\{a^nb^nc^n \mid n \geq 1\}$  not context-free)
- Greibach Normal Form for CFG
- Systematic construction of deterministic and efficient parsers for compilers (LL/LR grammars)
- Non-context-free grammars and languages (e.g., context-sensitive languages such as  $\{a^nb^nc^n\mid n\geq 1\}$ )



