

COMP-330

Theory of Computation

Fall 2019 -- Prof. Claude Crépeau

Lec. 13 :

Pumping Lemma for CFLs

Announcements 

EXCEPTIONAL OFFICE HOURS



Posted Oct 14, 2019 11:44 AM

On Wednesday (Oct 16) I will be attending an external meeting during most of the day. My office hours will exceptionally be held from 11:00 to 14:00, same place as usual, McConnell 110N.

Claude

Office Hours



Posted Oct 11, 2019 6:06 PM

Hi,

As next Monday is a holiday. I will have the OH for next week on Wednesday between 11.30am - 12.30pm.

Regards,

Anirudha

PDA to CFG

PROOF Say that $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, \{q_{\text{accept}}\})$ and construct G . The variables of G are $\{A_{pq} \mid p, q \in Q\}$. The start variable is $A_{q_0, q_{\text{accept}}}$. Now we describe G 's rules.

- For each $p, q, r, s \in Q$, $t \in \Gamma$, and $a, b \in \Sigma_\varepsilon$, if $\delta(p, a, \varepsilon)$ contains (r, t) and $\delta(s, b, t)$ contains (q, ε) , put the rule $A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$ in G .
- For each $p, q, r \in Q$, put the rule $A_{pq} \rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq}$ in G .
- Finally, for each $p \in Q$, put the rule $A_{pp} \rightarrow \varepsilon$ in G .

PDA to CFG

CLAIM 2.30

If A_{pq} generates x , then x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack).

We prove this claim by induction on the number of steps in the derivation of x from A_{pq} .

If A_{pq} generates x , then x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack).

Basis: The derivation has 1 step.

A derivation with a single step must use a rule whose right-hand side contains no variables. The only rules in G where no variables occur on the right-hand side are $A_{pp} \rightarrow \epsilon$. Clearly, input ϵ takes P from p with empty stack to p with empty stack so the basis is proved.

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Induction step: Assume true for derivations of length at most k , where $k \geq 1$, and prove true for derivations of length $k + 1$.

If A_{pq} generates x , then x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack).

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Induction step: Assume true for derivations of length at most k , where $k \geq 1$, and prove true for derivations of length $k + 1$.

Suppose that $A_{pq} \xRightarrow{*} x$ with $k + 1$ steps. The first step in this derivation is either $A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b$ or $A_{pq} \Rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq}$. We handle these two cases separately.

If A_{pq} generates x , then x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack).

In the first case, consider the portion y of x that A_{rs} generates, so $x = ayb$. Because $A_{rs} \xRightarrow{*} y$ with k steps, the induction hypothesis tells us that P can go from r on empty stack to s on empty stack. Because $A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$ is a rule of G , $\delta(p, a, \epsilon)$ contains (r, t) and $\delta(s, b, t)$ contains (q, ϵ) , for some stack symbol t . Hence, if P starts at p with an empty stack, after reading a it can go to state r and push t onto the stack. Then reading string y can bring it to s and leave t on the stack. Then after reading b it can go to state q and pop t off the stack. Therefore x can bring it from p with empty stack to q with empty stack.

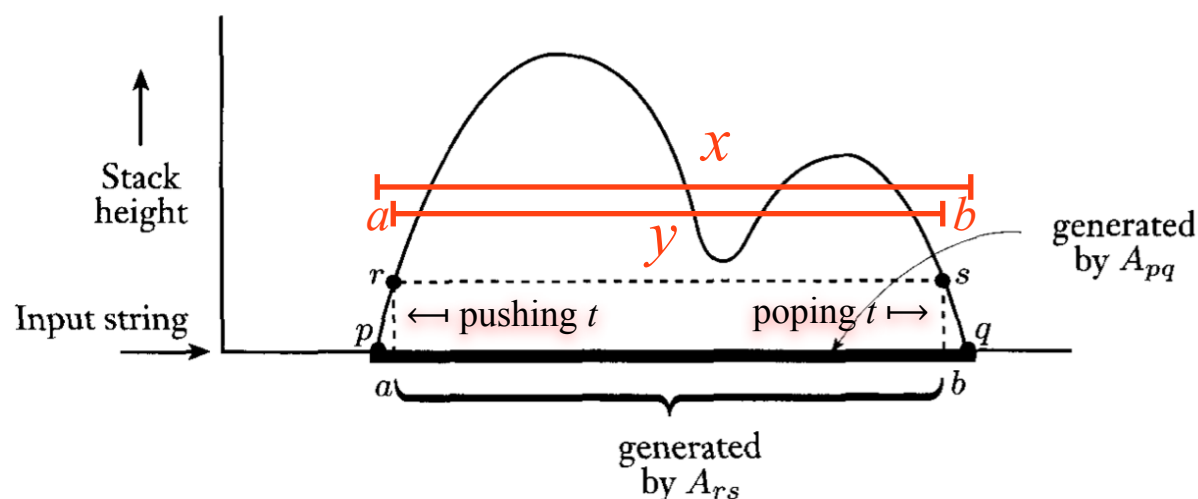


FIGURE 2.29

PDA computation corresponding to the rule $A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$

If A_{pq} generates x , then x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack).

$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b$$

In the first case, consider the portion y of x that A_{rs} generates, so $x = ayb$. Because $A_{rs} \xRightarrow{*} y$ with k steps, the induction hypothesis tells us that P can go from r on empty stack to s on empty stack. Because $A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$ is a rule of G , $\delta(p, a, \epsilon)$ contains (r, t) and $\delta(s, b, t)$ contains (q, ϵ) , for some stack symbol t . Hence, if P starts at p with an empty stack, after reading a it can go to state r and push t onto the stack. Then reading string y can bring it to s and leave t on the stack. Then after reading b it can go to state q and pop t off the stack. Therefore x can bring it from p with empty stack to q with empty stack.

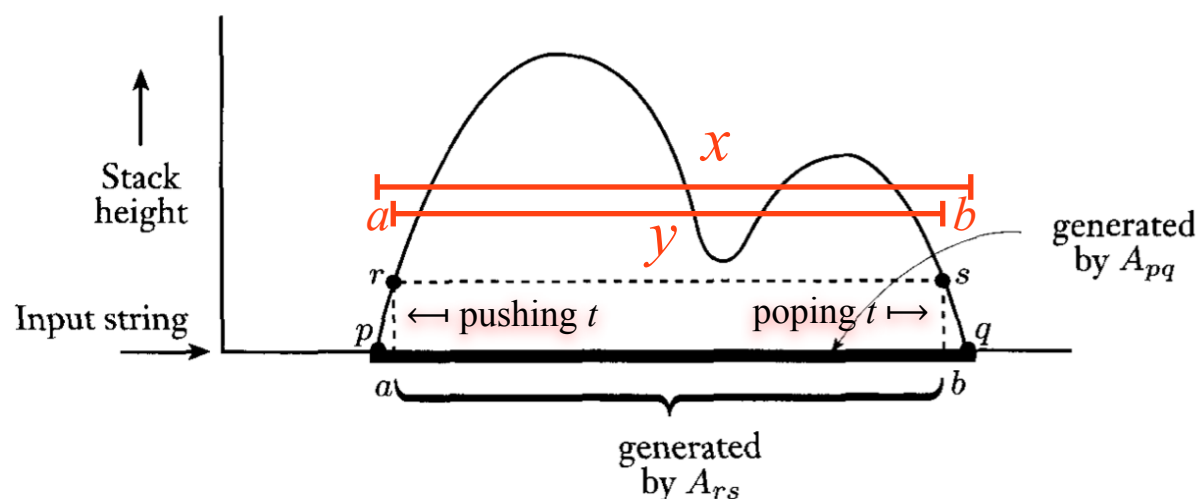


FIGURE 2.29

PDA computation corresponding to the rule $A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$

If A_{pq} generates x , then x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack).

In the second case, consider the portions y and z of x that A_{pr} and A_{rq} respectively generate, so $x = yz$. Because $A_{pr} \xRightarrow{*} y$ in at most k steps and $A_{rq} \xRightarrow{*} z$ in at most k steps, the induction hypothesis tells us that y can bring P from p to r , and z can bring P from r to q , with empty stacks at the beginning and end. Hence x can bring it from p with empty stack to q with empty stack. This completes the induction step.

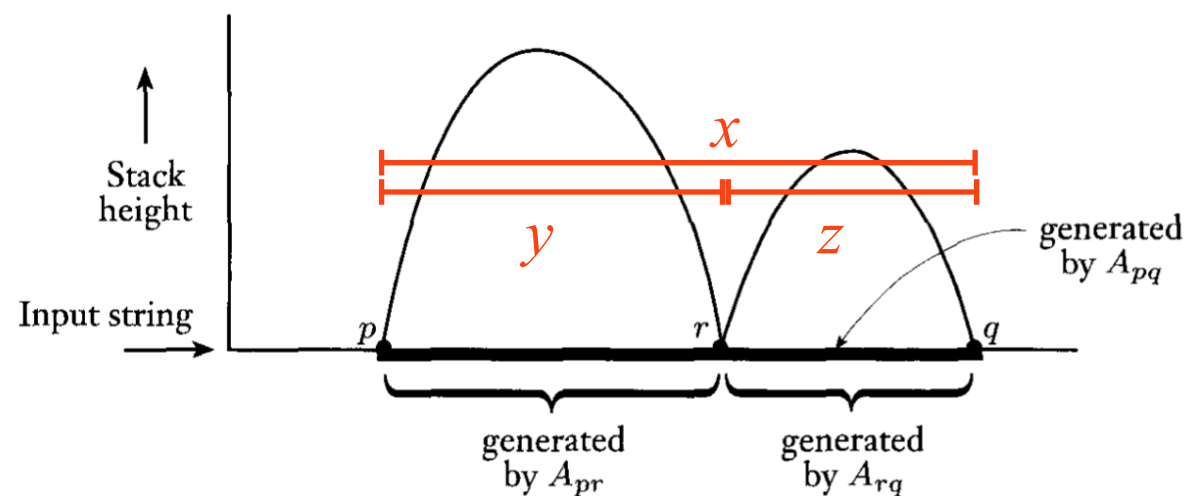


FIGURE 2.28
PDA computation corresponding to the rule $A_{pq} \rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq}$

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$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq}$$

In the second case, consider the portions y and z of x that A_{pr} and A_{rq} respectively generate, so $x = yz$. Because $A_{pr} \xRightarrow{*} y$ in at most k steps and $A_{rq} \xRightarrow{*} z$ in at most k steps, the induction hypothesis tells us that y can bring P from p to r , and z can bring P from r to q , with empty stacks at the beginning and end. Hence x can bring it from p with empty stack to q with empty stack. This completes the induction step.

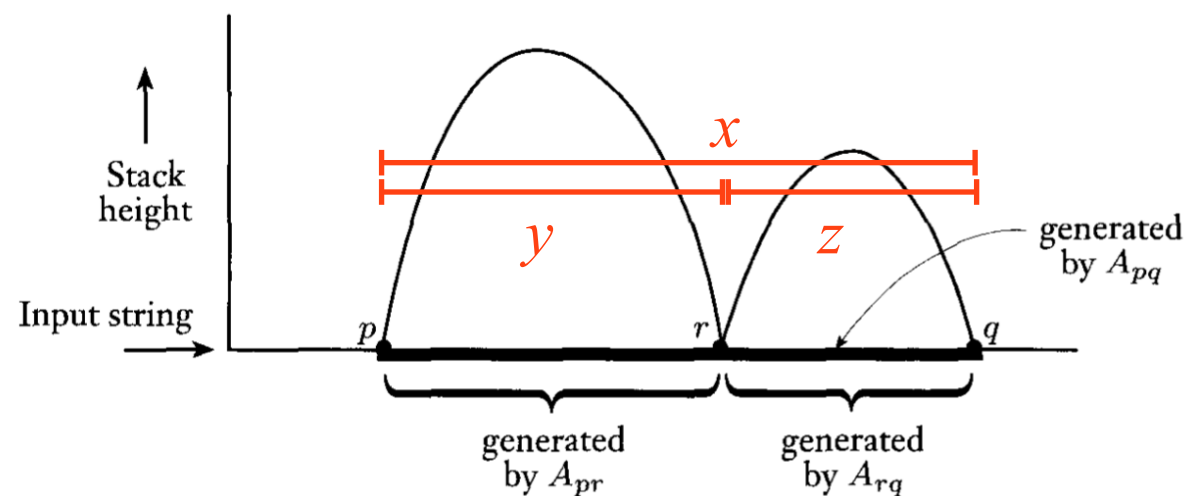


FIGURE 2.28

PDA computation corresponding to the rule $A_{pq} \rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq}$

PDA to CFG

CLAIM 2.31

If x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack), then A_{pq} generates x .

We prove this claim by induction on the number of steps in the computation of P that goes from p to q with empty stacks on input x .

If x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack), then A_{pq} generates x .

Basis: The computation has 0 steps.

If a computation has 0 steps, it starts and ends at the same state—say, p . So we must show that $A_{pp} \xRightarrow{*} x$. In 0 steps, P only has time to read the empty string, so $x = \epsilon$. By construction, G has the rule $A_{pp} \rightarrow \epsilon$, so the basis is proved.

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Induction step: Assume true for computations of length at most k , where $k \geq 0$, and prove true for computations of length $k + 1$.

If x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack), then A_{pq} generates x .

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Induction step: Assume true for computations of length at most k , where $k \geq 0$, and prove true for computations of length $k + 1$.

Suppose that P has a computation wherein x brings p to q with empty stacks in $k + 1$ steps. Either the stack is empty only at the beginning and end of this computation, or it becomes empty elsewhere, too.

If x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack), then A_{pq} generates x .

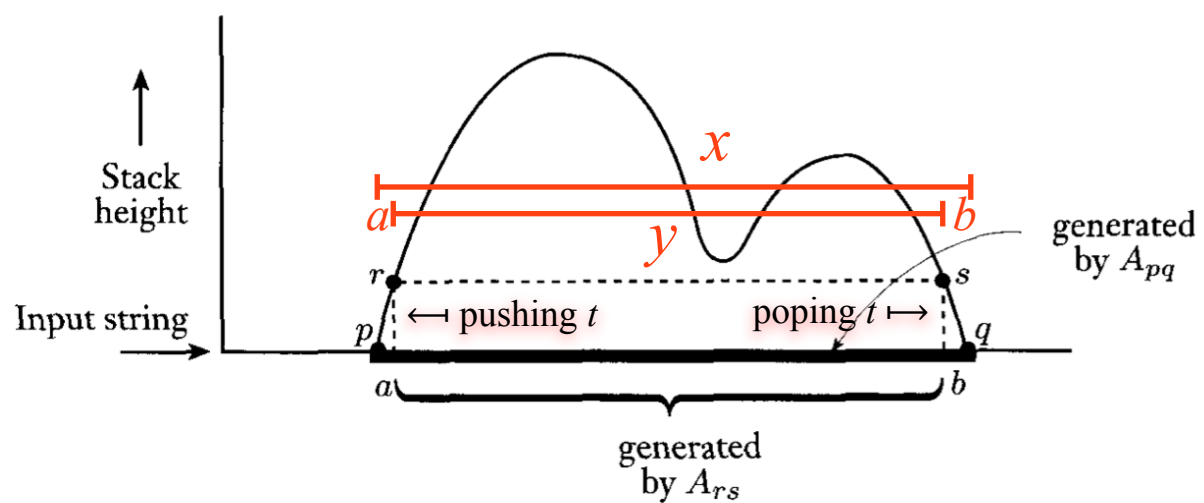


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PDA computation corresponding to the rule $A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$

If x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack), then A_{pq} generates x .

In the first case, the symbol that is pushed at the first move must be the same as the symbol that is popped at the last move. Call this symbol t . Let a be the input read in the first move, b be the input read in the last move, r be the state after the first move, and s be the state before the last move. Then $\delta(p, a, \epsilon)$ contains (r, t) and $\delta(s, b, t)$ contains (q, ϵ) , and so rule $A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$ is in G .

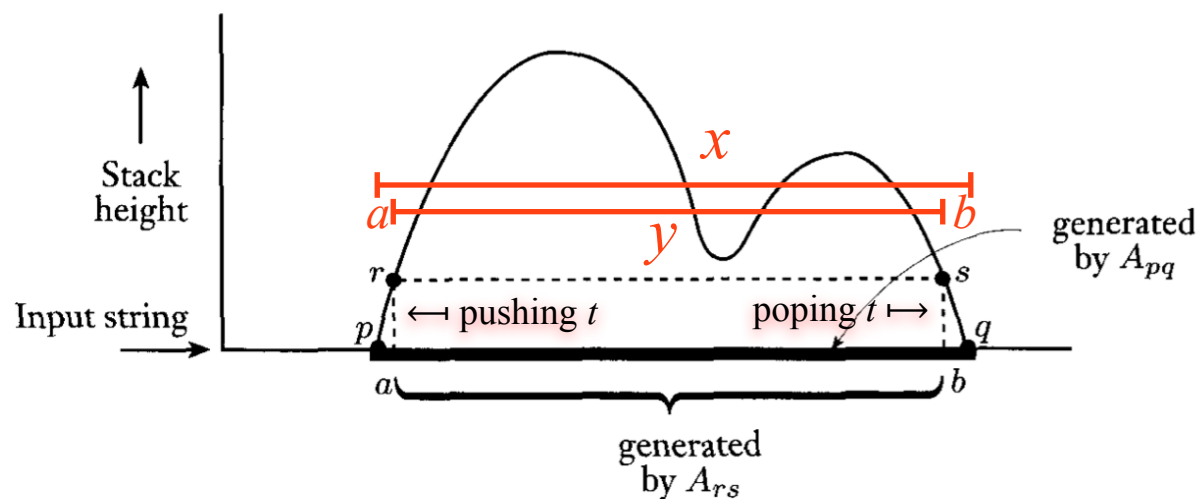


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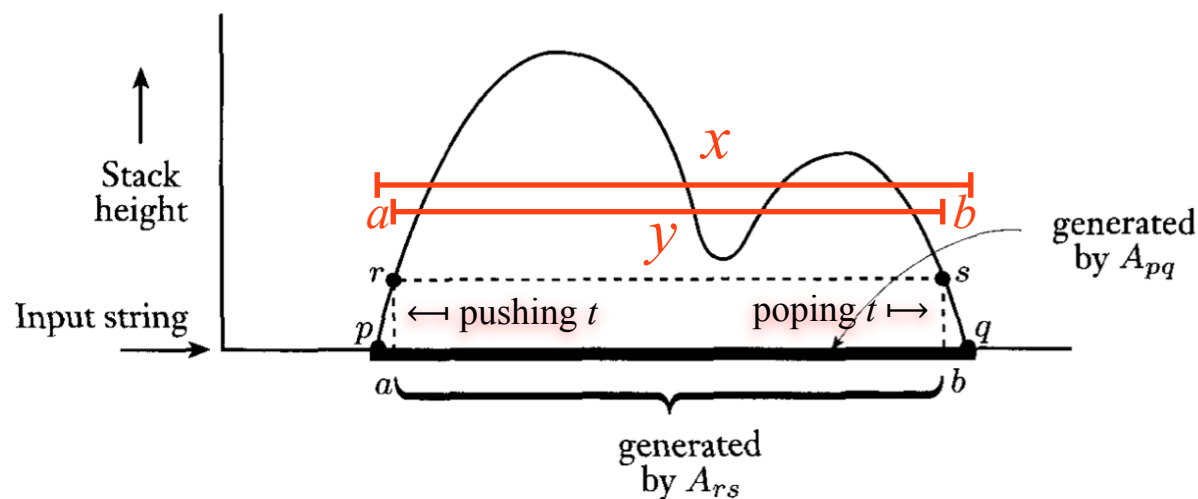


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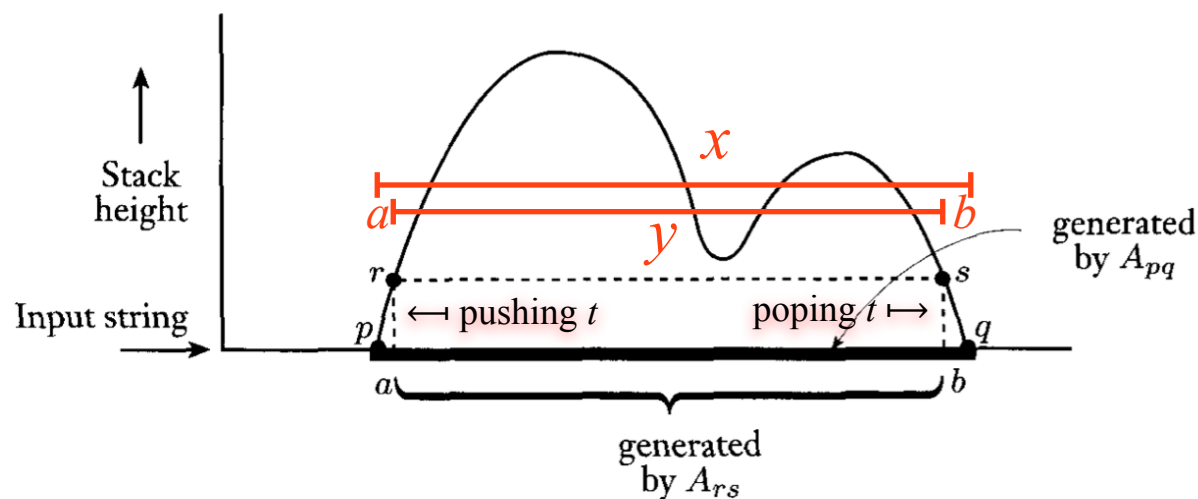


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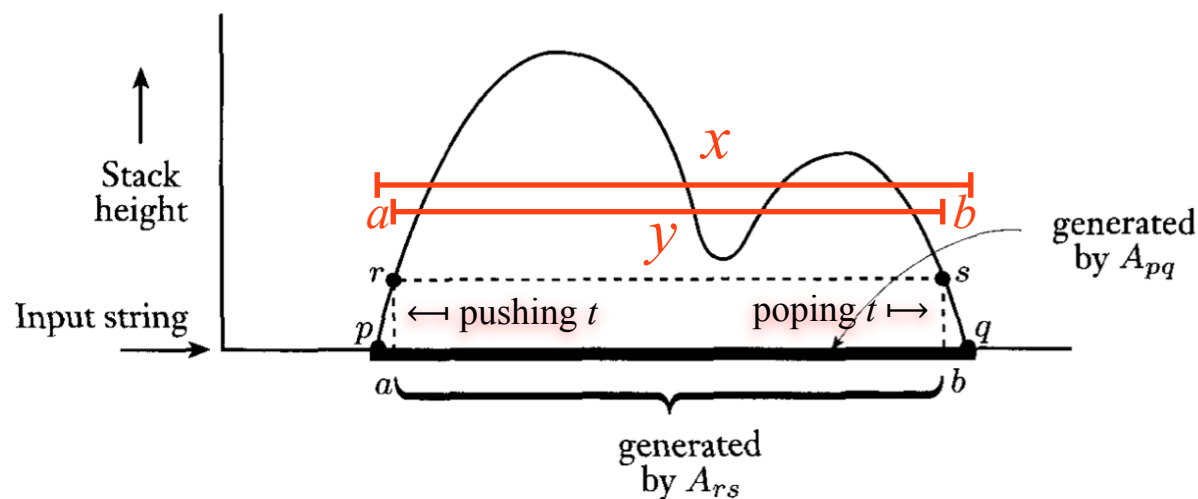


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Let y be the portion of x without a and b , so $x = ayb$. Input y can bring P from r to s without touching the symbol t that is on the stack and so P can go from r with an empty stack to s with an empty stack on input y . We have removed the first and last steps of the $k + 1$ steps in the original computation on x so the computation on y has $(k + 1) - 2 = k - 1$ steps. Thus the induction hypothesis tells us that $A_{rs} \xRightarrow{*} y$. Hence $A_{pq} \xRightarrow{*} x$.

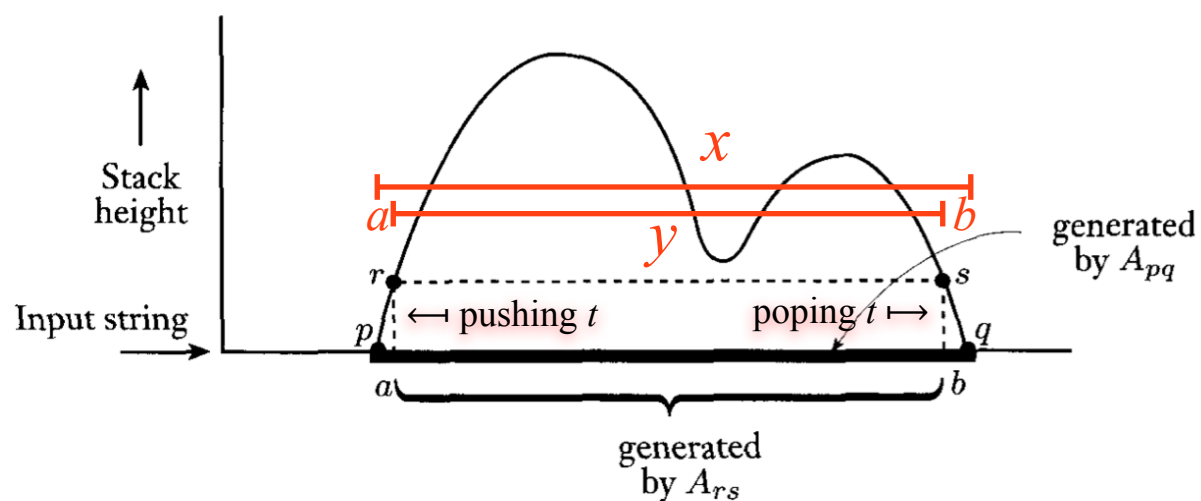


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If x can bring P from a state p (with an empty stack) to a state q (with an empty stack), then A_{pq} generates x .

In the second case, let r be a state where the stack becomes empty other than at the beginning or end of the computation on x . Then the portions of the computation from p to r and from r to q each contain at most k steps. Say that y is the input read during the first portion and z is the input read during the second portion. The induction hypothesis tells us that $A_{pr} \xRightarrow{*} y$ and $A_{rq} \xRightarrow{*} z$. Because rule $A_{pq} \rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq}$ is in G , $A_{pq} \xRightarrow{*} x$, and the proof is complete.

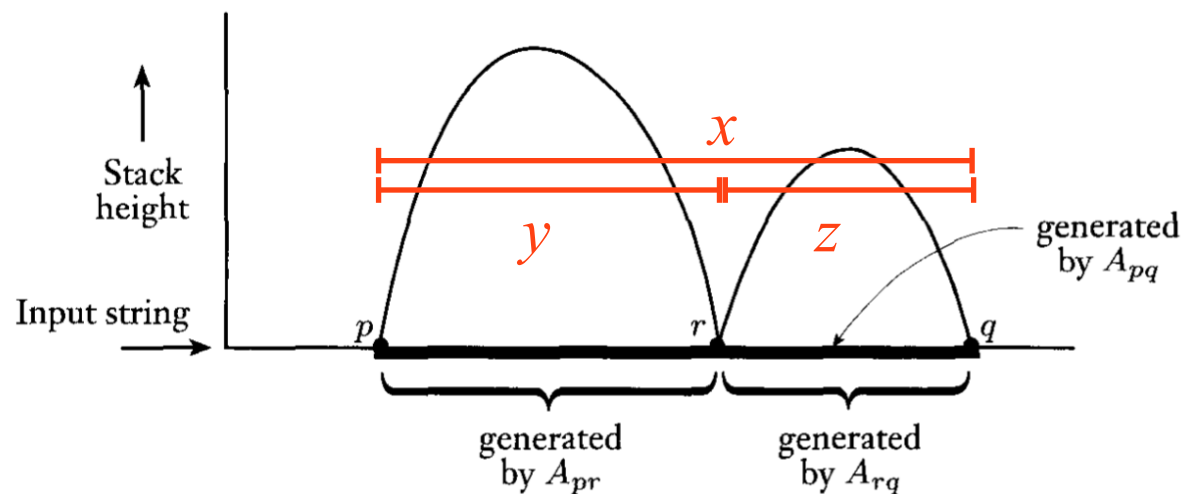


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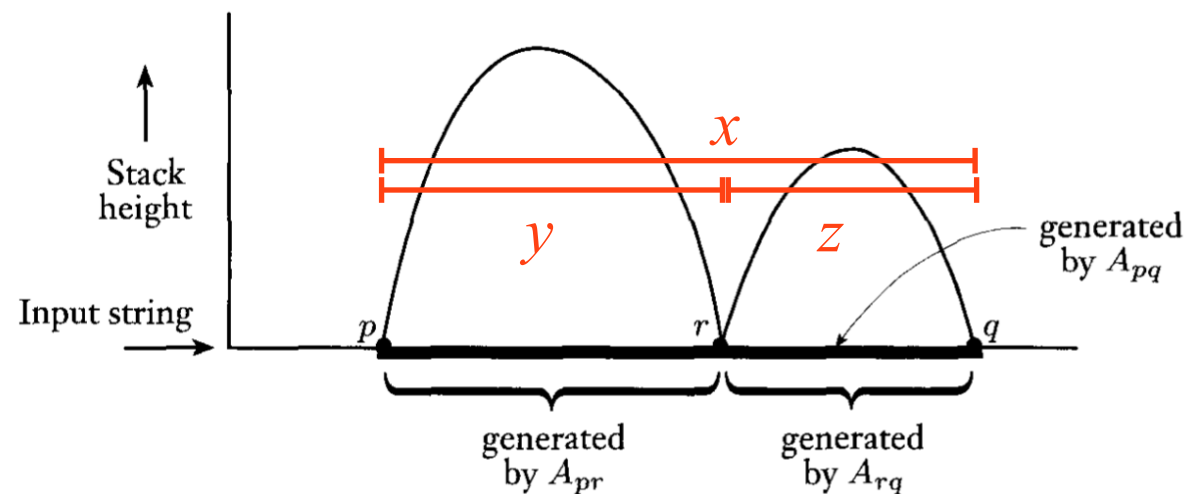


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PDA computation corresponding to the rule $A_{pq} \rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq}$

PDA vs CFG

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LEMMA 2.21

If a language is context free, then some pushdown automaton recognizes it.

PDA vs CFG

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LEMMA 2.27

If a pushdown automaton recognizes some language, then it is context free.

PDA vs CFG

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LEMMA 2.27

If a pushdown automaton recognizes some language, then it is context free.

THEOREM 2.20

A language is context free if and only if some pushdown automaton recognizes it.

All languages

Computability Theory

Languages we can describe

Decidable Languages

Context-free Languages

Regular Languages

NON-Regular Languages

NON-Regular Languages
via Pumping Lemma

via Reductions

All languages

Computability Theory

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NON-CFLs

via Pumping Lemma

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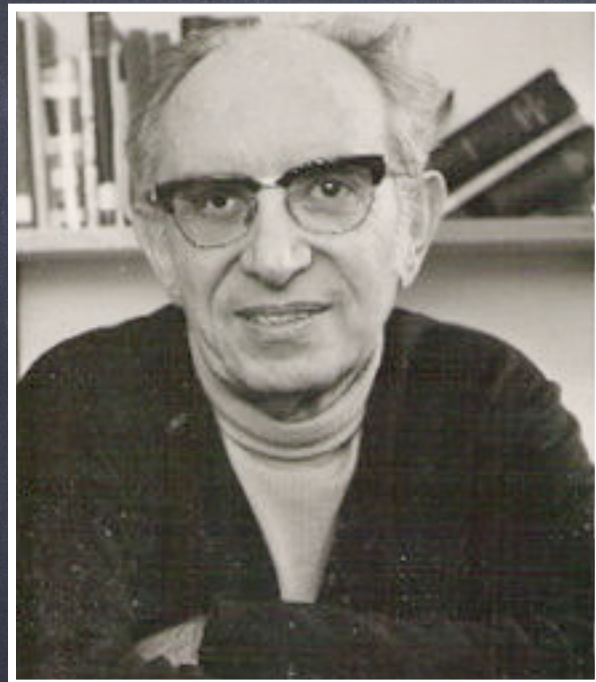
Pumping Lemma for CFLs

THEOREM 2.34

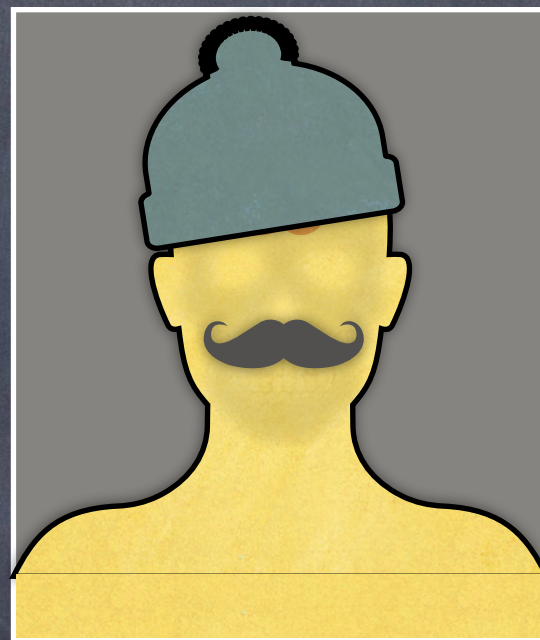
Pumping lemma for context-free languages If A is a context-free language, then there is a number p (the pumping length) where, if s is any string in A of length at least p , then s may be divided into five pieces $s = uvxyz$ satisfying the conditions

1. for each $i \geq 0$, $uv^i xy^i z \in A$,
2. $|vy| > 0$, and
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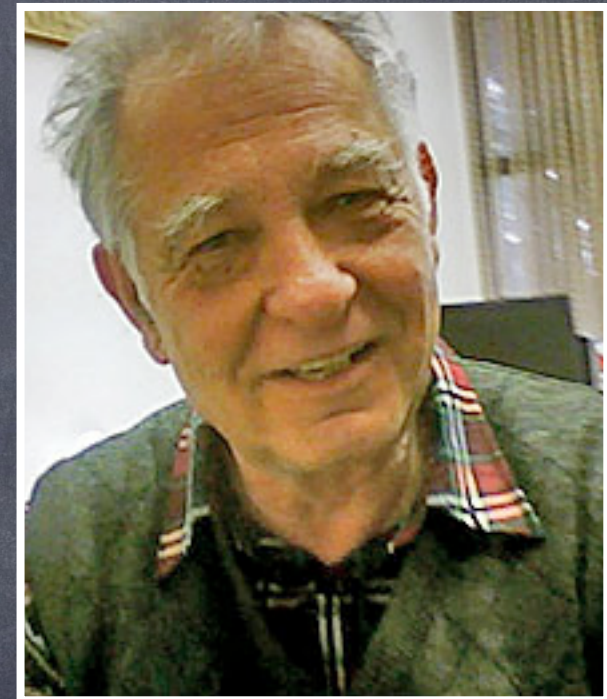
Pumping Lemma for CFLs



Yehoshua Bar-Hillel



Micha A. Perles



Eli Shamir

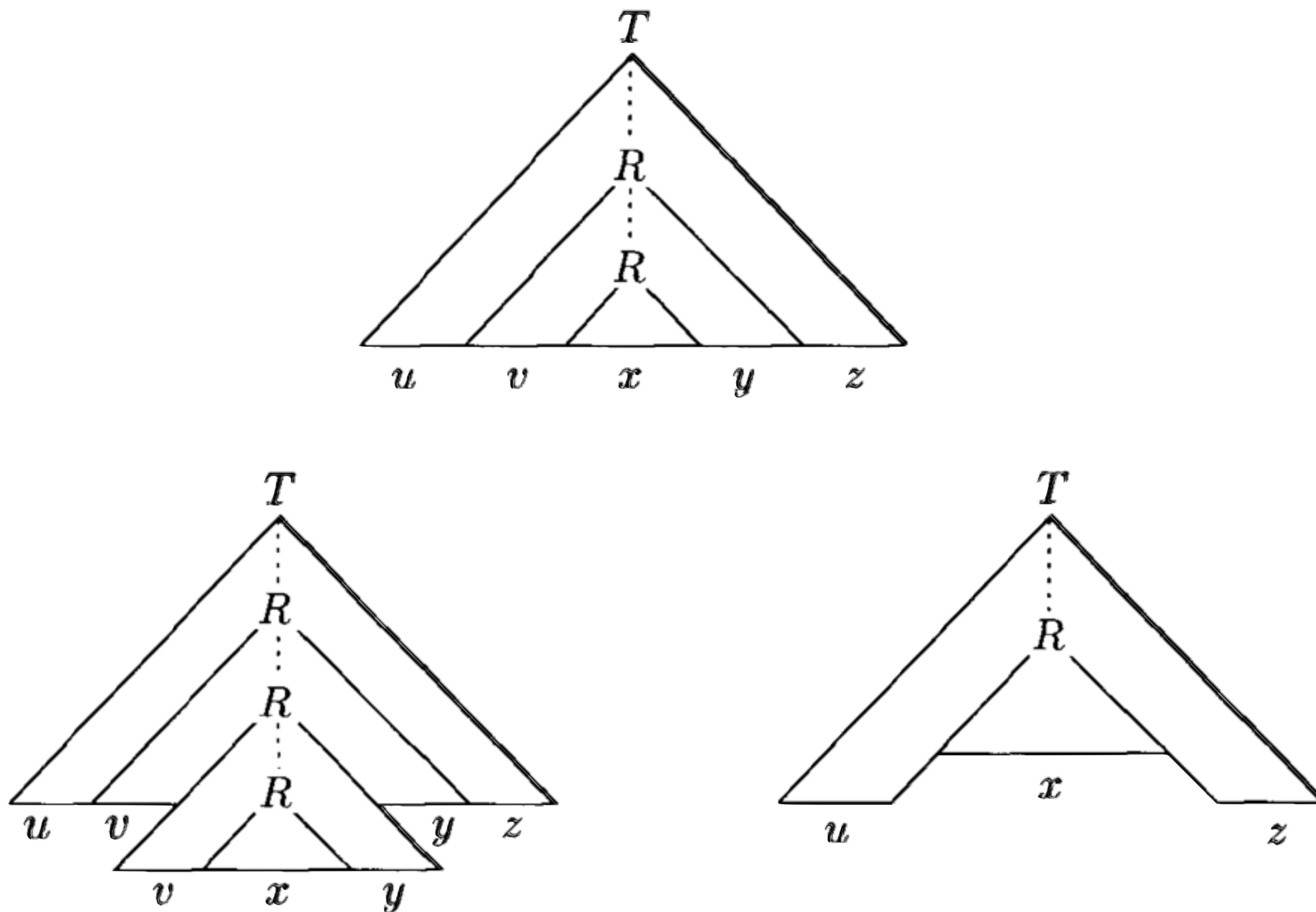


FIGURE 2.35
Surgery on parse trees

Pumping Lemma

PROOF Let G be a CFG for CFL A . Let b be the maximum number of symbols in the right-hand side of a rule. In any parse tree using this grammar we know that a node can have no more than b children. In other words, at most b leaves are 1 step from the start variable; at most b^2 leaves are within 2 steps of the start variable; and at most b^h leaves are within h steps of the start variable. So, if the height of the parse tree is at most h , the length of the string generated is at most b^h . **Reciprocally**, if a generated string is at least $b^h + 1$ long, each of its parse trees must be at least $h + 1$ high.

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Say $|V|$ is the number of variables in G . We set p , the pumping length, to be $b^{|V|+1}$. Now if s is a string in A and its length is p or more, its parse tree must be at least $|V| + 1$ high, because $b^{|V|+1} \geq b^{|V|+1}$.

Pumping Lemma

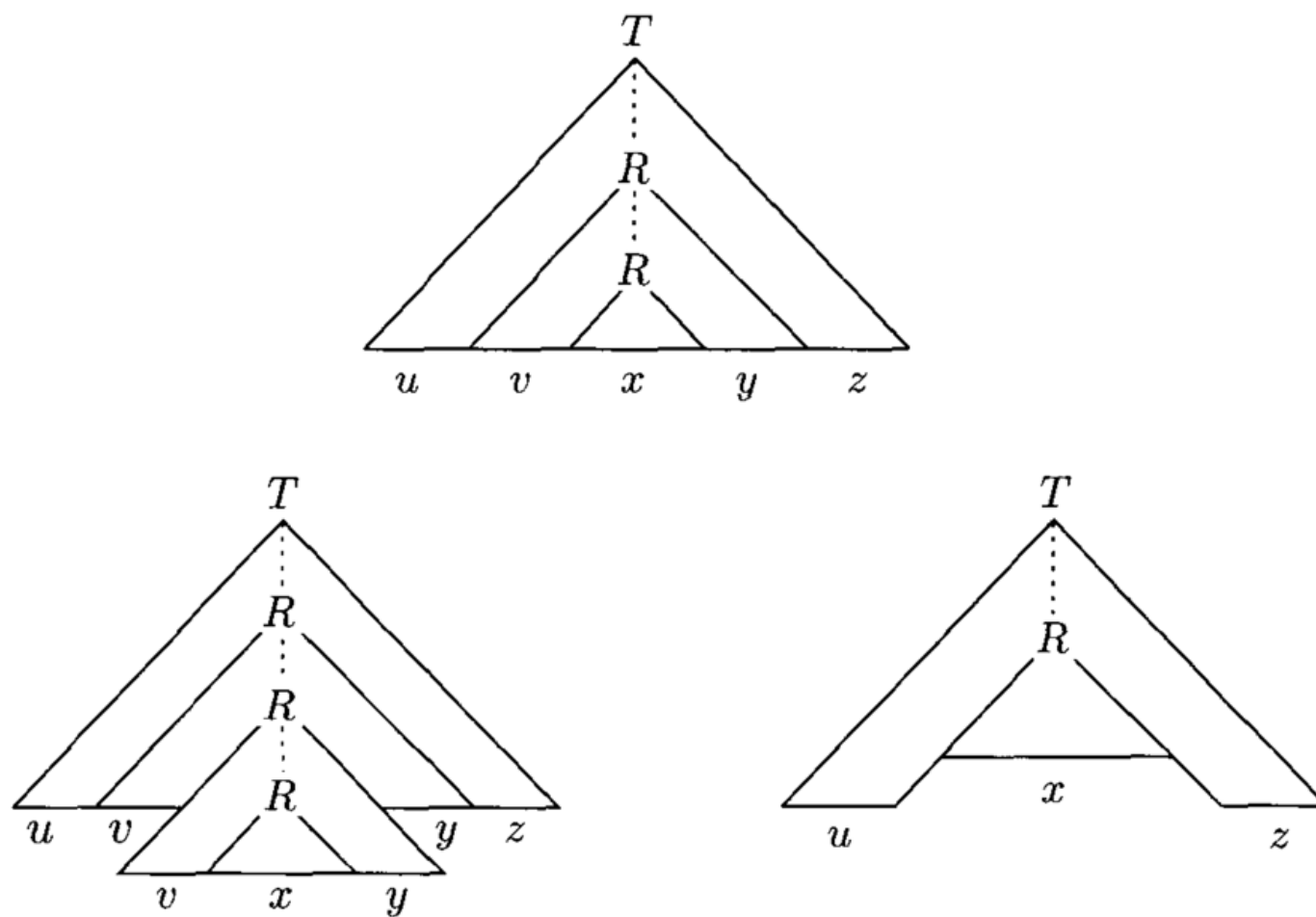


FIGURE 2.35
Surgery on parse trees

To see how to pump any such string s , let τ be one of its parse trees. If s has several parse trees, choose τ to be a parse tree that has the smallest number of nodes. We know that τ must be at least $|V| + 1$ high, so it must contain a path from the root to a leaf of length at least $|V| + 1$. That path has at least $|V| + 2$ nodes; one at a terminal, the others at variables. Hence that path has at least $|V| + 1$ variables. With G having only $|V|$ variables, some variable R appears more than once on that path. For convenience later, we select R to be a variable that repeats among the lowest $|V| + 1$ variables on this path.

Pumping Lemma

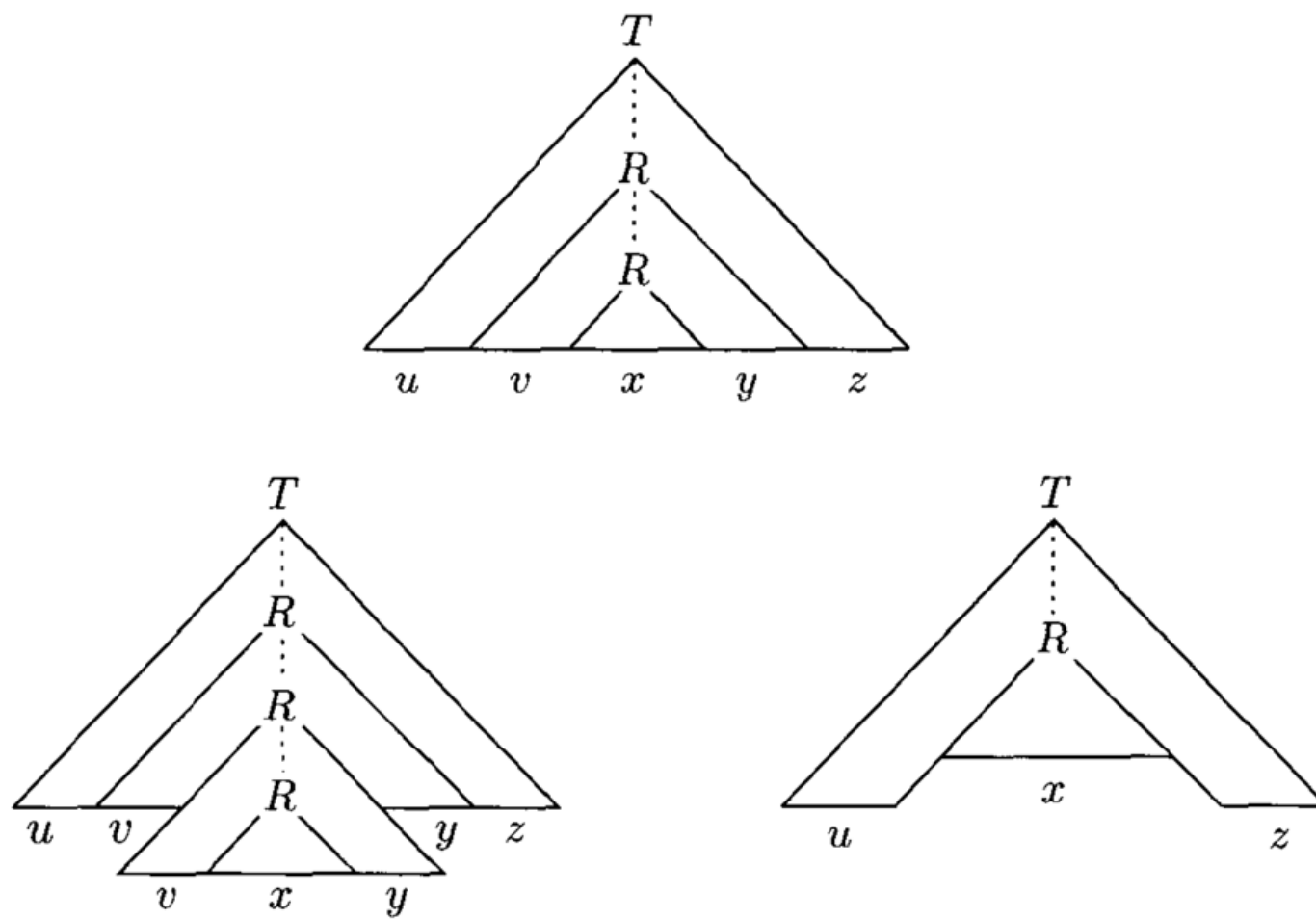


FIGURE 2.35
Surgery on parse trees

We divide s into $uvxyz$ according to Figure 2.35. Each occurrence of R has a subtree under it, generating a part of the string s . The upper occurrence of R has a larger subtree and generates vxy , whereas the lower occurrence generates just x with a smaller subtree. Both of these subtrees are generated by the same variable, so we may substitute one for the other and still obtain a valid parse tree. Replacing the smaller by the larger repeatedly gives parse trees for the strings $uv^i xy^i z$ at each $i > 1$. Replacing the larger by the smaller generates the string uxz . That establishes condition 1 of the lemma. We now turn to conditions 2 and 3.

Pumping Lemma

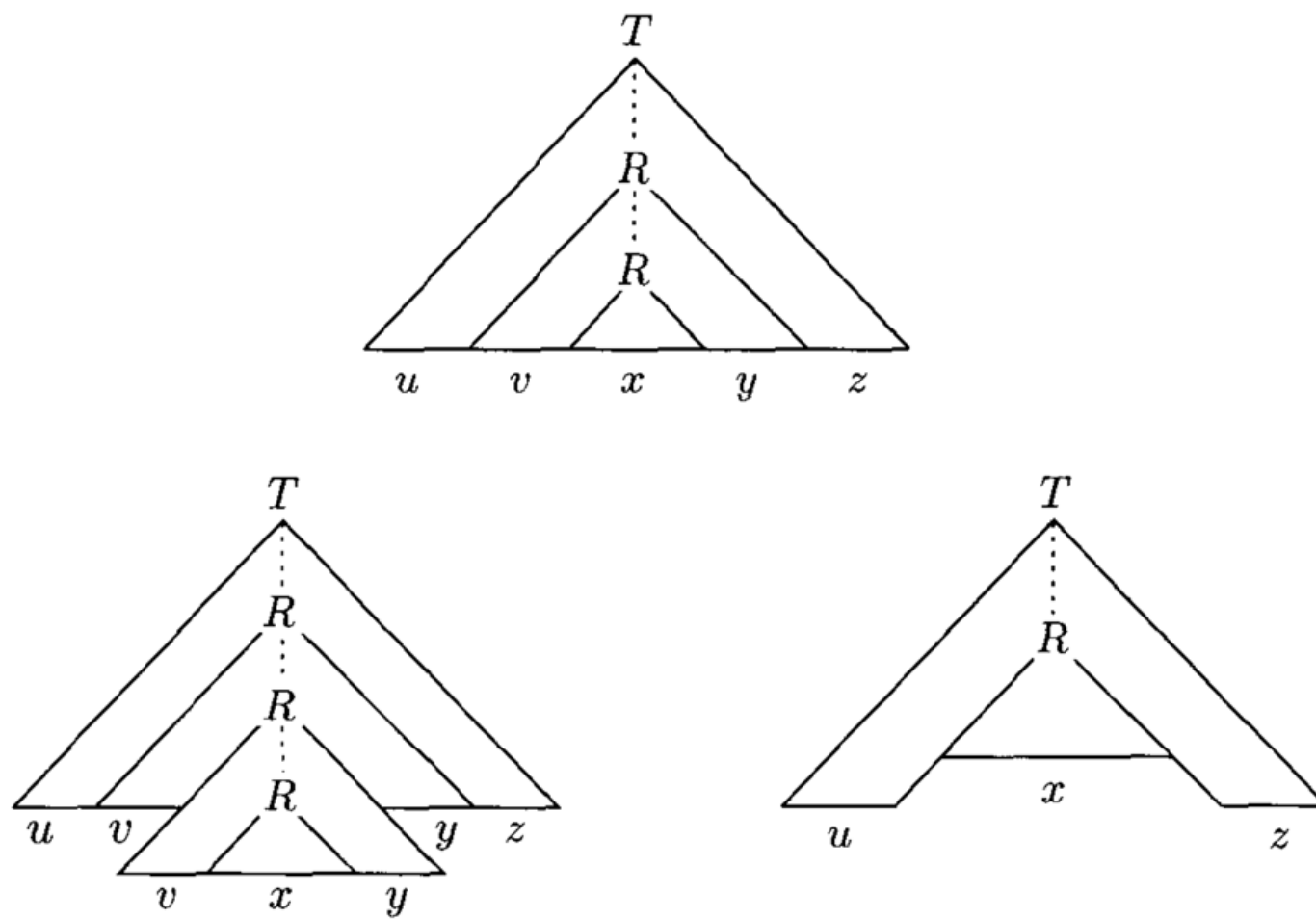


FIGURE 2.35
Surgery on parse trees

To get condition 2 we must be sure that both v and y are not ϵ . If they were, the parse tree obtained by substituting the smaller subtree for the larger would have fewer nodes than τ does and would still generate s . This result isn't possible because we had already chosen τ to be a parse tree for s with the smallest number of nodes. That is the reason for selecting τ in this way.

Pumping Lemma

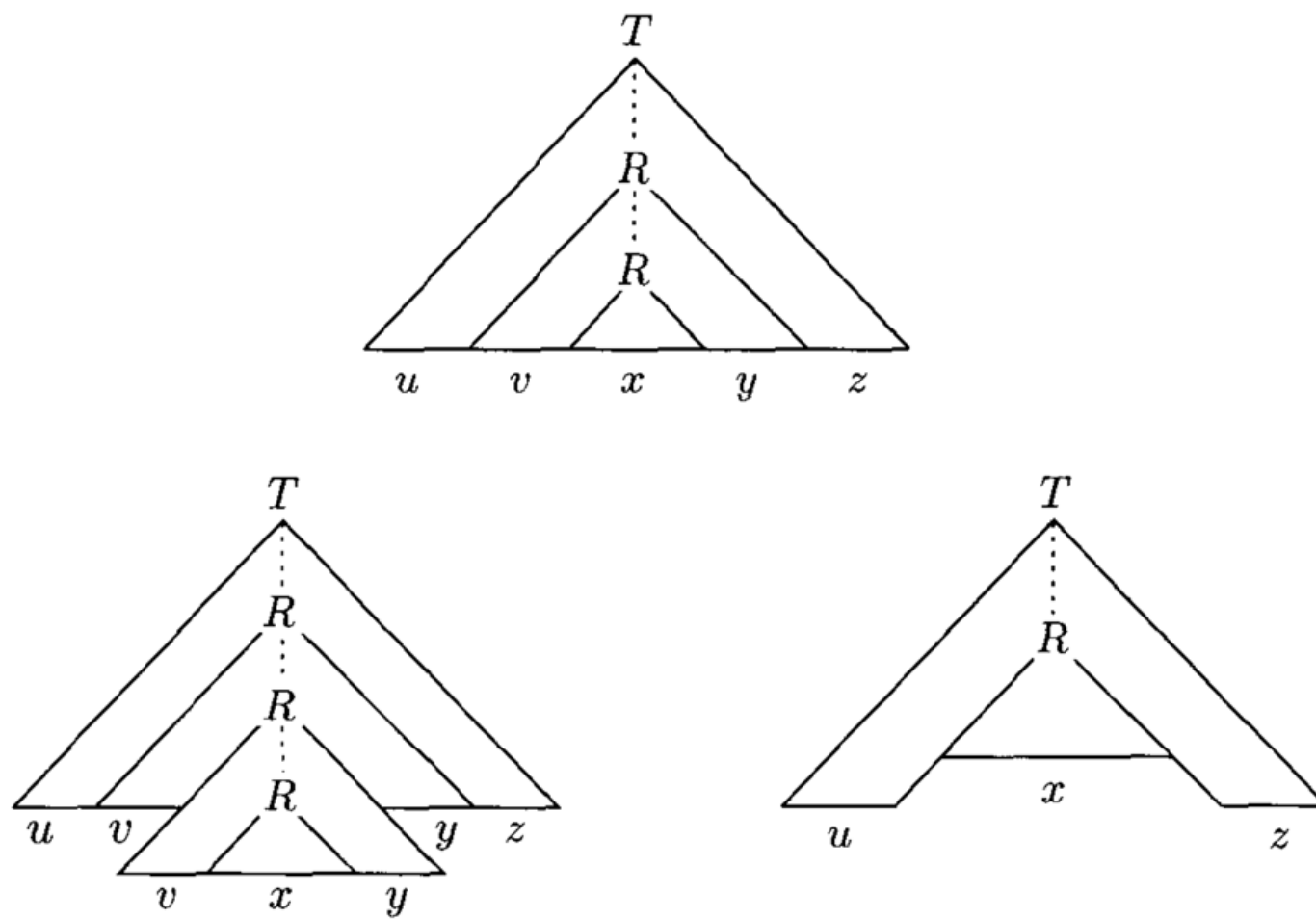


FIGURE 2.35
Surgery on parse trees

In order to get condition 3 we need to be sure that vxy has length at most p . In the parse tree for s the upper occurrence of R generates vxy . We chose R so that both occurrences fall within the bottom $|V| + 1$ variables on the path, and we chose the longest path in the parse tree, so the subtree where R generates vxy is at most $|V| + 1$ high. A tree of this height can generate a string of length at most $b^{|V|+1} = p$.

THEOREM 2.34

Pumping lemma for context-free languages If A is a context-free language, then there is a number p (the pumping length) where, if s is any string in A of length at least p , then s may be divided into five pieces $s = uvxyz$ satisfying the conditions

1. for each $i \geq 0$, $uv^i xy^i z \in A$,
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$A \in \text{CFL} \implies$

$\exists p \forall s \in A, |s| \geq p, \exists uvxyz = s \text{ st } 1, 2, 3 = \text{true.}$

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$$\forall p \exists s \in A, |s| \geq p, \forall uvxyz = s [1 \text{ or } 2 \text{ or } 3 = \text{false}].$$

$$\implies A \notin \text{CFL}$$

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$$\exists p \forall s \in A, |s| \geq p, \exists uvxyz = s \text{ st } 1, 2, 3 = \text{true}.$$
$$\forall p \exists s \in A, |s| \geq p, \forall uvxyz = s \text{ st } 2, 3 = \text{true} [1 = \text{false}].$$
$$\implies A \notin \text{CFL}$$

THEOREM 2.34

Pumping lemma for context-free languages If A is a context-free language, then there is a number p (the pumping length) where, if s is any string in A of length at least p , then s may be divided into five pieces $s = uvxyz$ satisfying the conditions

1. for each $i \geq 0$, $uv^i xy^i z \in A$,
2. $|vy| > 0$, and
3. $|vxy| \leq p$.

$$A \in \text{CFL} \implies$$

$$\exists p \forall s \in A, |s| \geq p, \exists uvxyz = s \text{ st } 1, 2, 3 = \text{true}.$$

$$\forall p \exists s \in A, |s| \geq p, \forall uvxyz = s \text{ st } 2, 3 = \text{true} [1 = \text{false}].$$

$$\implies A \notin \text{CFL}$$

$$\forall p \exists s \in A, |s| \geq p, \forall uvxyz = s \text{ s.t. } |vy| > 0, |vxy| < p,$$

$$\text{then } \exists i \geq 0 \text{ s.t. } s' = uv^i xy^i z \notin A.$$

$$\implies A \notin \text{CFL}$$

NON-CFLS

EXAMPLE 2.36

Use the pumping lemma to show that the language $B = \{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ is not context free.

We assume that B is a CFL and obtain a contradiction. Let p be the pumping length for B that is guaranteed to exist by the pumping lemma. Select the string $s = a^p b^p c^p$. Clearly s is a member of B and of length at least p . The pumping lemma states that s can be pumped, but we show that it cannot. In other words, we show that no matter how we divide s into $uvwxyz$, one of the three conditions of the lemma is violated.

NON-CFLS

First, condition 2 stipulates that either v or y is nonempty. Then we consider one of two cases, depending on whether substrings v and y contain more than one type of alphabet symbol.

1. When both v and y contain only one type of alphabet symbol, v does not contain both a's and b's or both b's and c's, and the same holds for y . In this case the string uv^2xy^2z cannot contain equal numbers of a's, b's, and c's. Therefore it cannot be a member of B . That violates condition 1 of the lemma and is thus a contradiction.
2. When either v or y contain more than one type of symbol uv^2xy^2z may contain equal numbers of the three alphabet symbols but not in the correct order. Hence it cannot be a member of B and a contradiction occurs.

NON-CFLS

One of these cases must occur. Because both cases result in a contradiction, a contradiction is unavoidable. So the assumption that B is a CFL must be false. Thus we have proved that B is not a CFL. ■

NON-CFLS

EXAMPLE 2.37

Let $C = \{a^i b^j c^k \mid 0 \leq i \leq j \leq k\}$. We use the pumping lemma to show that C is not a CFL. This language is similar to language B in Example 2.36, but proving that it is not context free is a bit more complicated.

Assume that C is a CFL and obtain a contradiction. Let p be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma. We use the string $s = a^p b^p c^p$ that we used earlier, but this time we must “pump down” as well as “pump up.” Let $s = uvxyz$ and again consider the two cases that occurred in Example 2.36.

NON-CFLS

$s = uvxyz$ and again consider the two cases that occurred in Example 2.36.

1. When both v and y contain only one type of alphabet symbol, v does not contain both a's and b's or both b's and c's, and the same holds for y . Note that the reasoning used previously in case 1 no longer applies. The reason is that C contains strings with unequal numbers of a's, b's, and c's as long as the numbers are not decreasing. We must analyze the situation more carefully to show that s cannot be pumped. Observe that because v and y contain only one type of alphabet symbol, one of the symbols a, b, or c doesn't appear in v or y . We further subdivide this case into three subcases according to which symbol does not appear.

NON-CFLS

- a. *The a's do not appear.* Then we try pumping down to obtain the string $uv^0xy^0z = uxz$. That contains the same number of a's as s does, but it contains fewer b's or fewer c's. Therefore it is not a member of C , and a contradiction occurs.
- b. *The b's do not appear.* Then either a's or c's must appear in v or y because both can't be the empty string. If a's appear, the string uv^2xy^2z contains more a's than b's, so it is not in C . If c's appear, the string uv^0xy^0z contains more b's than c's, so it is not in C . Either way a contradiction occurs.
- c. *The c's do not appear.* Then the string uv^2xy^2z contains more a's or more b's than c's, so it is not in C , and a contradiction occurs.

NON-CFLS

2. When either v or y contain more than one type of symbol, uv^2xy^2z will not contain the symbols in the correct order. Hence it cannot be a member of C , and a contradiction occurs.

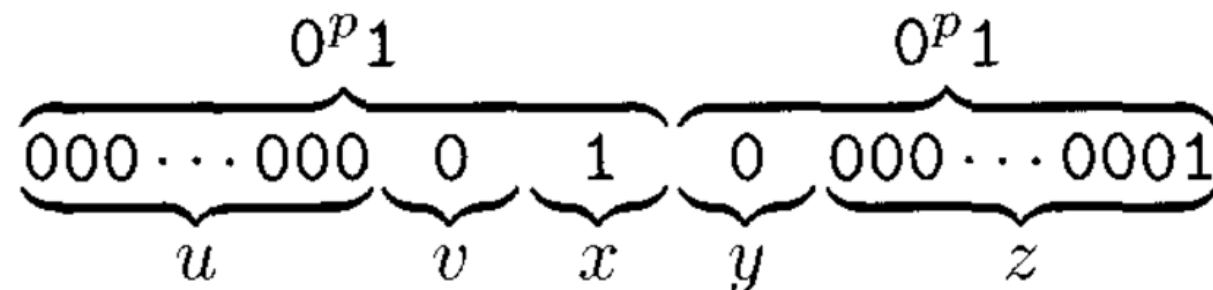
Thus we have shown that s cannot be pumped in violation of the pumping lemma and that C is not context free.

NON-CFLS

EXAMPLE 2.38

Let $D = \{ww \mid w \in \{0,1\}^*\}$. Use the pumping lemma to show that D is not a CFL. Assume that D is a CFL and obtain a contradiction. Let p be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma.

This time choosing string s is less obvious. One possibility is the string $0^p 1 0^p 1$. It is a member of D and has length greater than p , so it appears to be a good candidate. But this string *can* be pumped by dividing it as follows, so it is not adequate for our purposes.



NON-CFLS

Let's try another candidate for s . Intuitively, the string $0^p 1^p 0^p 1^p$ seems to capture more of the "essence" of the language D than the previous candidate did. In fact, we can show that this string does work, as follows.

We show that the string $s = 0^p 1^p 0^p 1^p$ cannot be pumped. This time we use condition 3 of the pumping lemma to restrict the way that s can be divided. It says that we can pump s by dividing $s = uvxyz$, where $|vxy| \leq p$.

NON-CFLS

First, we show that the substring vxy must straddle the midpoint of s . Otherwise, if the substring occurs only in the first half of s , pumping s up to uv^2xy^2z moves a 1 into the first position of the second half, and so it cannot be of the form ww . Similarly, if vxy occurs in the second half of s , pumping s up to uv^2xy^2z moves a 0 into the last position of the first half, and so it cannot be of the form ww .

But if the substring vxy straddles the midpoint of s , when we try to pump s down to uxz it has the form $0^p 1^i 0^j 1^p$, where i and j cannot both be p . This string is not of the form ww . Thus s cannot be pumped, and D is not a CFL. \triangleleft

Reductions (& Construction tools)

- CFLs are closed under union, concatenation and star. If there exists a CFL C s.t. either $A^* = A'$, $AUC = A'$, $A \circ C = A'$ (but not complement nor intersection) or any combinations of these operations then A' is a CFL as long as A is.
- If A' is NON-CFL then so is A .

Reduction example

- Consider languages $D = \{ ww \mid w \in \{a,b\}^* \}$,
 $E = \{ ww \mid w \in \{a,b\}^* \text{ and } |w| < 1000 \}$ and $F = D \setminus E$.
- Since $D = E \cup F$ and E is a CFL (a finite and regular language), and since D is a NON-CFL we conclude that
$$F = \{ ww \mid w \in \{a,b\}^* \text{ and } |w| > 999 \}$$
is also a NON-CFL.

Reduction example

- 2.18**
- Let C be a context-free language and R be a regular language. Prove that the language $C \cap R$ is context free.
 - Use part (a) to show that the language $A = \{w \mid w \in \{a, b, c\}^* \text{ and contains equal numbers of a's, b's, and c's}\}$ is not a CFL.

2.18 (a) Let C be a context-free language and R be a regular language. Let P be the PDA that recognizes C , and D be the DFA that recognizes R . If Q is the set of states of P and Q' is the set of states of D , we construct a PDA P' that recognizes $C \cap R$ with the set of states $Q \times Q'$. P' will do what P does and also keep track of the states of D . It accepts a string w if and only if it stops at a state $q \in F_P \times F_D$, where F_P is the set of accept states of P and F_D is the set of accept states of D . Since $C \cap R$ is recognized by P' , it is context free.

(b) Let R be the regular language $a^*b^*c^*$. If A were a CFL then $A \cap R$ would be a CFL by part (a). However, $A \cap R = \{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\}$, and Example 2.36 proves that $A \cap R$ is not context free. Thus A is not a CFL.

COMP-330

Theory of Computation

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Lec. 13 :

Pumping Lemma for CFLs