

HW2 - Formal grammars

March 17, 2025

1. What are the languages engendered by the following context-free grammars:
 - (a) $\mathcal{G}_1 = (\{a, b\}, \{S\}, S, \{S \rightarrow aSa \mid bSb \mid \varepsilon\})$
 - (b) $\mathcal{G}_2 = (\{a, b\}, \{S, T\}, S, \{S \rightarrow aSa \mid bSb \mid aTb \mid bTa, T \rightarrow Ta \mid Tb \mid \varepsilon\})$
2. Give a context-free grammar for each of the following languages:
 - (a) $\{a^m b^n c^p \mid n \geq m + p\}$
 - (b) $\{va^n \mid v \in \{a, b\}^n \wedge |v|_a = n\}$
 - (c) $\{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid |w|_a \geq |w|_b\}$
3. Propose a context-free grammar that generates the set of valid arithmetic expressions (in \mathbb{N}) over $\{0, 1, \dots, 9, \times, +, (,)\}$ with the two following restrictions:
 - the numbers should not contain any leading 0's, except for 0 itself, and
 - there should not be any redundant parentheses.

For instance, expressions in (1) are valid, while those in (2) are not.

- (1)
 - a. $1234 \times 0 \times (1 + 654 + 292929)$
 - b. $4 \times 911 + 2 \times (42 + 5555 \times 886) \times 1$
 - c. $9 \times (1 + 2 + 7) \times (4 \times 2 + 1) + 5 \times 112$
 - d. $(0 + 4) \times (5 \times 7 + 91) + 4$
- (2)
 - a. $* 010$
 - b. $* 1 \times (2)$
 - c. $* 4 \times 911 + (2 \times 42 + 5555)$
 - d. $* 9 \times (1 \times 2) + 74$

Is your grammar ambiguous? If so, show two parse trees for a valid expression; otherwise, explain informally why your grammar is not (a formal proof is not expected).

4. Define a non-trivial context-free grammar that could generate the sentences in (3)
 - (3)
 - a. Alice eats a sweet.
 - b. The waiter gives Alice cakes in a tray.
 - c. The tabby cat with a grin disappears.
 - d. Alice likes that her brother plays football with his friends.