

1 Pumping lemma for context-free languages

The pumping lemma for context-free languages (Bar-Hillel lemma):

Let L be a CFL, then there exists $p > 0$ such that if $z \in L$ and $|z| \geq p$, then z can be written as $uvwxy$ where

1. $|vwx| \leq p$
2. $vx \neq \varepsilon$
3. $uv^kwx^ky \in L \quad \forall k \geq 0$

Pumping Lemma for CFL can be used to prove that some languages are not context free.

Exercise 1:

$$\Sigma = \{a, b, c\}$$
$$L = \{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\}$$

Exercise 2:

$$\Sigma = \{a, b, c\}$$
$$L = \{a^n b^m c^n \mid n \geq m\}$$

Exercise 3:

$$\Sigma = \{a, b, c\}$$
$$L = \{a^i b^j c^k \mid i \leq j \leq k\}$$

Exercise 4:

$$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$$
$$L = \{ww \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$$

Exercise 5:

$$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$$
$$L = \{a^p \mid p \text{ prime}\}$$

2 Testing membership in a CFL

We can decide if a string w is the member of a context free language L . An efficient way to do this is the dynamic-programming (table filling) CYK (Cocke-Younger-Kasami) Algorithm.

How can we decide if string $w = a_1a_2a_3a_4a_5$ is in L ? We need the CNF grammar for L to do this, and fill out the following table.

x_{15}					
x_{14}	x_{25}				
x_{13}	x_{24}	x_{35}			
x_{12}	x_{23}	x_{34}	x_{45}		
x_{11}	x_{22}	x_{33}	x_{44}	x_{55}	
a_1	a_2	a_3	a_4	a_5	

- Each row of the table corresponds to a particular length of substrings of w .
- x_{ij} corresponds to the subset of variables that can generate substring $a_i a_{i+1} \dots a_j$
- We start by computing substrings of length 1.
- Substrings of length k will be generated by combining substrings of length $k - l$ and l (for all l values).
- The string w is a member of L , if $S \in x_{15}$

Exercise 1: Use the CYK algorithm to determine if $baaba \in L(G)$ holds, where the productions of your grammar G are

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

Exercise 2: Use the CYK algorithm to determine if $cabab \in L(G)$ holds, where the productions of your grammar G are

$$\begin{aligned}
 S &\rightarrow AB \mid b \\
 A &\rightarrow CB \mid AA \mid a \\
 B &\rightarrow AS \mid b \\
 C &\rightarrow BS \mid c
 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3: Use the CYK algorithm to determine if $abaab \in L(G)$ holds, where the productions of your grammar G are

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow AB \mid SS \mid a \\ A &\rightarrow BS \mid CD \mid b \\ B &\rightarrow DD \mid b \\ C &\rightarrow DE \mid a \mid b \\ D &\rightarrow a \\ E &\rightarrow SS \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3: Use the CYK algorithm to determine if $she\ eats\ a\ fork\ with\ a\ fish \in L(G)$ holds, where $G = \{\{S, VP, PP, NP, V, P, N, D\}, \{a, eats, fish, fork, with\}, R, S\}$, and the productions of R are

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow NP VP \\ VP &\rightarrow VP PP \\ VP &\rightarrow eats \\ PP &\rightarrow P NP \\ NP &\rightarrow D N \\ V &\rightarrow eats \\ P &\rightarrow with \\ N &\rightarrow fish \\ N &\rightarrow fork \\ D &\rightarrow a \end{aligned}$$