

Homework problems #13–16

CSC 341

due February 21, 2007

Problem 13

The context-free grammar with rules

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow \text{call} \\ S &\rightarrow \text{if test then } S \text{ else } S \\ S &\rightarrow \text{if test then } S \end{aligned}$$

generates a subset of statements in the Pascal programming language, with `test` acting as a placeholder for Boolean expressions and `call` as a placeholder for arbitrary statements. (In Pascal, the identifier `test` can legally occur in the places indicated as a variable of Boolean type, and `call` can be a legal statement—a call to a procedure that takes no arguments.)

Unfortunately, this grammar is ambiguous; there are two leftmost derivations for the string `if test then if test then call else call`. Give an unambiguous context-free grammar that generates the same language.

Problem 14

Give a pushdown automaton with input alphabet $\{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{:}\}$ that accepts a string if, and only if, it has the form $x:y$, where x and y are *distinct* strings that contain no colons.

For extra credit, give a context-free grammar that generates this language.

Problem 15

The *reversal* of a language L is $\{w^{\mathcal{R}} \mid w \in L\}$. Prove that the reversal of any context-free language is context-free.

For extra credit, design, write, and test a Scheme procedure that takes as its argument a context-free grammar (as in `context-free-grammars.ss`) and returns a context-free grammar that generates the reversal of the language generated by the given context-free grammar.

Problem 16

Using Bar-Hillel's pumping lemma, show that the language $\{ww^{\mathcal{R}}w \mid w \in \{0, 1\}^*\}$ is not context-free. (A string is a member of this language if, and only if, it can be divided into three parts of equal length, of which the first and third are identical and the second is the reversal of the first. The shortest members of the language are ε , 000, 111, 000000, 011001, 100110, 111111, 00000000, 001100001, 010010010, 011110011, and so on.)

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