Context-Free languages
(part III)

Prof. Dan A. Simovici

UMB
1. Type 3 Grammars and Finite Automata

2. The Case of One-Symbol Alphabet

3. Other Closure Properties of $\mathcal{L}_2$
The main result of this section is a proof that the class \( \mathcal{R} \) of regular languages coincides with \( \mathcal{L}_3 \).

**Theorem**

Let \( G \) be a type-3 grammar, and let \( L \) be the language generated by \( G \). 
There is a transition system \( \mathcal{T} \) such that \( L = L(\mathcal{T}) \).
Proof

Suppose that \( G = (A_N, A_T, S, P) \) is a type-3 grammar. Define the transition system \( \mathcal{J} = (A_T, A_N \cup \{Z\}, \theta, S, \{Z\}) \), where \( Z \) is a new symbol, \( Z \notin A_N \cup A_T \), and

\[
\theta = \{(X, u, Y) \mid X \to uY \in P\} \\
\cup \{(X, u, Z) \mid X \to u \in P\}.
\]
Let \( w \in L(G) \). There exists a derivation

\[
S \xrightarrow[\ G \ ]{G} u_0X_{i_0} \xrightarrow[\ G \ ]{G} u_0u_1X_{i_1} \cdots \xrightarrow[\ G \ ]{G} u_0u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}X_{i_{n-1}} \xrightarrow[\ G \ ]{G} u_0u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}u_n,
\]

where \( w = u_0 \cdots u_{n-1}u_n \). The productions used in this derivation are \( S \rightarrow u_0X_{i_0} \), \( X_{i_p-1} \rightarrow u_pX_{i_p} \) for \( 1 \leq p \leq n - 1 \), and \( X_{i_{n-1}} \rightarrow u_n \). Therefore, the triples

\[
(S, u_0, X_{i_0}), (X_{i_0}, u_1, X_{i_1}), \ldots, (X_{i_{n-2}}, u_{n-1}, X_{i_{n-1}}), (X_{i_{n-1}}, u_n, Z)
\]

must all be in \( \theta \), which implies that \( (S, u_0 \cdots u_n, Z) \in \theta^* \). Since \( Z \) is a final state of \( \mathcal{I} \), we have \( u \in L(\mathcal{I}) \), so \( L(G) \subseteq L(\mathcal{I}) \).
Conversely, if $u \in L(T)$, then $(S, u, Z) \in \theta^*$. Taking into account the definition of $\theta$, there are $n$ intermediate states in $T$, $X_{i_0}, \ldots, X_{i_{n-1}}$ such that $u = u_0 \cdots u_n$ and the triples

$$(S, u_0, X_{i_0}), (X_{i_0}, u_1, X_{i_1}), \ldots, (X_{i_{n-2}}, u_{n-1}, X_{i_{n-1}}), (X_{i_{n-1}}, u_n, Z)$$

exist in $\theta$. This implies the existence in $P$ of the productions

$$S \to u_0X_{i_0}, X_{i_0} \to u_1X_{i_1}, \ldots, X_{i_{n-2}} \to u_{n-1}X_{i_{n-1}}, X_{i_{n-1}} \to u_n$$

Using these productions we obtain the derivation

$$S \xrightarrow{G} u_0X_{i_0} \xrightarrow{G} u_0u_1X_{i_1} \cdots \xrightarrow{G} u_0u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}X_{i_{n-1}} \xRightarrow{G} u_0u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}u_n,$$

which implies that $x \in L(T)$. This proves the inclusion $L(T) \subseteq L(G)$. 
Theorem

For every regular language \( L \) there is a type-3 grammar \( G \) such that \( L(G) = L \).

Proof.

Let \( \mathcal{M} = (A, Q, \delta, q_0, F) \) be a dfa such that \( L = L(\mathcal{M}) \). The type-3 grammar \( G = (Q, A, q_0, P) \) whose productions are

\[
q \rightarrow aq' \quad \text{for each } q, q', a \text{ with } q' = \delta(q, a) \\
q \rightarrow \lambda \quad \text{for each } q \in F.
\]

generates \( L(\mathcal{M}) \).
Corollary

The class $\mathcal{L}_3$ coincides with the class $\mathcal{R}$ of regular languages.
Recall the Pumping Lemma for context-free languages:

**Theorem**

Let $L$ be a context-free language. There exists a number $n_L \in \mathbb{N}$ such that if $w \in L$ and $|w| \geq n_L$, then we can write

$$w = xyzut$$

such that $|y| \geq 1$ or $|u| \geq 1$, $|yzu| \leq n_L$ and $x y^n z u^n t \in L$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

This is a necessary condition for the “context-freeness” of a language.
The Case of One-Symbol Alphabet

The Special Case of One-symbol Alphabets

Let $A = \{a\}$ be an one-symbol alphabet.

- Word concatenation in $A^*$ is commutative.
- The formulation of the Pumping Lemma in this special case:
  Let $L$ be a context-free language. There exists a number $n_L \in \mathbb{N}$ such that if $w \in L$ and $|w| \geq n_L$, then we can write

  $$w = rs$$

  such that $1 \leq |s| \leq n_G$ and $rs^n \in L(G)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Note that $r \in L$ (since we can take $n = 0$).
The Case of One-Symbol Alphabet

If $|r| > n_L$ the same pumping lemma can be applied to $r$, and $r = r_1w_1$ with $|w_1| \leq n_L$ such $r_1w_1^{n_1} \in L$ for $n_1 \in \mathbb{N}$. Again $r_1 \in L$ (for $n = 0$), etc. This leads to a stronger form of the Pumping Lemma for languages over one-symbol alphabets.

If $L$ is a context-free language on an one-symbol alphabet, there exists a number $n_L$ such that every word $w \in L$ with $|x| \geq n_L$ can be written as

$$w = rs_1s_2 \cdots s_k,$$

where $|r|, |s_1|, \ldots, |s_k| \leq n_L$ and

$$rs_1^{n_1} \cdots s_k^{n_k} \in L$$

for $n_1, \ldots, n_k \in \mathbb{N}$. 
Note that the set $K_n(L)$ of words in $L$ shorter than $n_L$ is finite, so it is regular. Since $L = (L \cap K_n(L)) \cup (L - K_n(L))$. The set $L - K_n(L)$ has the form $\{w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_n\}^*$, where $w_1, \ldots, w_n$ are the words that can be “pumped”. Thus, $L$ is a regular language.
Theorem

Let $s : A^* \rightarrow B^*$ be a substitution. If $s(a)$ is a context-free language for every $a \in A$ and $L \subseteq A^*$ is a context-free language, then $s(L)$ is a context-free language.
Proof

Suppose that $L = L(G)$, where $G = (A_N, A, S, P)$ is a context-free grammar and let $s(a)$ is generated by the context-free grammar $G_a = (A^a_N, B, S_a, P_a)$ for $a \in A$.
We may assume that the sets of nonterminal symbols $A^a_N$ are pairwise disjoint.
Let $P'$ be the set of productions obtained from $P$ as follows. In each production of $P$ replace every letter $a \in A$ by the nonterminal $S_a$. We claim that the language $s(L)$ is generated by the grammar $G' = (A_N \cup \bigcup_{a \in A} A^a_N, B, S, P' \cup \bigcup_{a \in A} P_a)$. 
(Proof cont’d)

Let $y \in s(L)$. There exists a word $x = a_{i_0} \ldots a_{i_{n-1}} \in L$ such that $y \in s(x)$. This means that $y = y_0 \ldots y_{n-1}$, where $y_k \in s(a_{i_k}) = L(G_{a_{i_k}})$ for $0 \leq k \leq n - 1$. Thus, we have the derivations $S_{a_{i_k}} \xrightarrow{G_{a_{i_k}}} y_k$ for $0 \leq k \leq n - 1$, and the same derivations can be done in $G'$. Consequently, we obtain the derivation

$$S \xrightarrow{G'} S_{a_{i_0}} \ldots S_{a_{i_{n-1}}} \xrightarrow{G'} y_0 \ldots y_{n-1} = y,$$

which implies $y \in L(G')$, so $s(L) \subseteq L(G')$. 
Conversely, if $y \in L(G')$, then any derivation $S \xrightarrow{*}_{G'} y$ is of the previous form.

The word $y$ can be written as $y = y_0 \ldots y_{n-1}$, where $S_{a_{i_k}} \xrightarrow{*}_{G'} y_k$ for $0 \leq k \leq n - 1$, so $y_k \in L(G_{a_{i_k}}) = s(a_{i_k})$ for $0 \leq k \leq n - 1$. This implies $y = y_0 \ldots y_{n-1} \in s(a_{i_0} \ldots s(a_{i_{n-1}}) = s(x) \in s(L)$, so $L(G') \subseteq s(L)$. Since $s(L) = L(G')$, it follows that $s(L)$ is a context-free language.
Corollary

If $h : A^* \rightarrow B^*$ is a morphism and $L \subseteq A^*$ is a context-free language, then $h(L)$ is a context-free language.
The class $\mathcal{L}_2$ is closed with respect to inverse morphic images. In other words, if $h : B^* \rightarrow A^*$ is a morphism, and $L \subseteq A^*$ is a context-free language, then $h^{-1}(L)$ is a context-free language.
Proof

Suppose that $B = \{b_0, \ldots, b_{m-1}\}$ and that $h(b_i) = x_i$ for $0 \leq i \leq m - 1$. Let $B' = \{b'_0, \ldots, b'_{m-1}\}$, and let $s$ be the substitution given by $s(a) = B'^* a B'^*$ for $a \in A$.

\[
\begin{align*}
B &= \{b_0, \ldots, b_{m-1}\} \\
h(b_i) &= x_i \\
B^* &\rightarrow A^* \\
B'^* &\rightarrow \text{ } \\
s(a) &= B'^* a B'^* \\
B' &= \{b'_0, \ldots, b'_{m-1}\}
\end{align*}
\]
Consider the finite language \( H = \{ b_i x_i | 0 \leq i \leq m \} \) in \((B' \cup A)^*\) and the mapping \( g : \mathcal{P}(A^*) \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}((A \cup B')^*)\) given by \( g(L) = s(L) \cap H^* \).

Define \( h_1 : (A \cup B')^* \longrightarrow (\{c\} \cup B)^* \) and \( h_2 : (\{c\} \cup B)^* \longrightarrow B^* \) by:

- \( h_1(a) = c \) for \( a \in A \), \( h_1(b') = b \) for all \( b' \in B' \),
- \( h_2(c) = \lambda \), \( h_2(b) = b \) for \( b \in B \).
We claim that for every language $L \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ such that $\lambda \notin L$, $h^{-1}(L) = h_2(h_1(g(L)))$ and hence, $h^{-1}(L)$ is context-free. This follows from the following equivalent statements:

1. $u = b_{i_0} \cdots b_{i_{k-1}} \in h^{-1}(L)$;
2. $h(u) = x_{i_0} \cdots x_{i_{k-1}} \in L$;
3. $b'_{i_0} x_{i_0} \cdots b'_{i_{k-1}} x_{i_{k-1}} \in g(L)$;
4. $h_1(b'_{i_0} x_{i_0} \cdots b'_{i_{k-1}} x_{i_{k-1}}) = b_{i_0} c \cdots c \cdots b_{i_{k-1}} c \cdots c \in h_1(g(L))$;
5. $h_2(b_{i_0} c \cdots c \cdots b_{i_{k-1}} c \cdots c) = b_{i_0} \cdots b_{i_{k-1}} = u \in h_2(h_1(g(L)))$. 
(Proof cont’d)

If \( \lambda \in L \), the language \( L - \{\lambda\} \) is context-free, so \( h^{-1}(L - \{\lambda\}) \) is also context-free. Note that \( h^{-1}(L) = h^{-1}(L - \{\lambda\}) \cup h^{-1}(\{\lambda\}) \) and that \( h^{-1}(\{\lambda\}) = \{ a \in A \mid h(a) = \lambda \}^* \). Since \( h^{-1}(\{\lambda\}) \) is regular it follows that \( h^{-1}(L) \) is context-free.
Reminder

We defined the shuffle of languages

**Definition**

Let $A$ be an alphabet and let $G, K$ be two languages over $A$. The *shuffle* of $G$ and $K$ is the language

$$
\text{shuffle}(G, K) = \{ x_0y_0x_1y_1 \cdots x_{n-1}y_{n-1} \mid x_0x_1 \cdots x_{n-1} \in G \text{ and } y_0y_1 \cdots y_{n-1} \in K\}.
$$
We proved

**Theorem**

*There is an alphabet $B$ and there exist three morphisms $g, k, h$ from $B^*$ to $A^*$ such that $h$ is a very fine morphism, $g, k$ are fine morphisms and $\text{shuffle}(G, K) = h(g^{-1}(G) \cap k^{-1}(K))$.***
Corollary

Let $L \subseteq A^*$ be a context-free language and let $R \subseteq A^*$ be a regular language. Then, $\text{shuffle}(L, R)$ is a context-free language.