

Theoretical Computer Science - Bridging Course

Summer Term 2017

Exercise Sheet 4

Hand in (electronically or hard copy) by 12:15 pm, June 12th, 2017

Exercise 1: Context-Free Languages (2+2+1 points)

Give context-free grammars that generate the following languages. The alphabet set is $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

- $\{w \mid w \text{ contains at least three ones}\}$
- $\{w \mid w \text{ the length of } w \text{ is odd and its middle symbol is a } 0\}$
- The empty language.

Note: The empty language is not the language containing only the empty string!

Exercise 2: Chomsky Normal Form (2+5 points)

Consider the following context-free grammar (CFG):

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow aSb \mid D \\ D &\rightarrow ccDcc \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

- Which language does this grammar define?
- Convert this CFG into an equivalent one in Chomsky Normal Form. Give the grammar you obtained after each step of the conversion algorithm.

Exercise 3: Pushdown Automata (6 points)

Convert the following CFG to an equivalent pushdown automaton. The alphabet is $\Sigma = \{a, +, \times, (,)\}$ and the set of variables $V = \{E, T, F\}$.

$$\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow E + T \mid T \\ T &\rightarrow T \times F \mid F \\ F &\rightarrow (E) \mid a \end{aligned}$$

(You already saw this grammar in the lecture with $\langle \text{expression} \rangle$, $\langle \text{term} \rangle$ and $\langle \text{factor} \rangle$ instead of E, T and F).

Exercise 4: Context-Free Languages and Set Operations (3+3 points)

- (a) Show that context-free languages are not closed under taking intersections (i.e., the intersection of two context-free languages is not necessarily context free).

Hint: You can use that the language $\{a^i b^i c^i \mid i \geq 0\}$ is not context-free.

- (b) Show that context-free languages are not closed under taking complements.

Hint: You can use DeMorgan's law and the fact that the set of context-free languages is closed under performing union operations.

Exercise 5: Pumping Lemma for Context-Free Languages (3+3 points)

Use the pumping lemma to show that the following languages over the alphabet $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ are not context free:

- (a) $\{ww \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$

Hint: Show that the string $s = a^p b^p a^p b^p$ with p the pumping length cannot be pumped.

- (b) $\{a^n b a^{2n} b a^{3n} \mid n \geq 0\}$

(Be careful to read the strings correctly: For example ab^4 is equal to $abbbb$ and not to $abababab$.)