Example 2.4

The following CFG handles mathematical expressions

\[ G_4 = (V, \Sigma, R, \langle \text{expr} \rangle) \]
\[ V = \{ \langle \text{expr} \rangle, \langle \text{term} \rangle, \langle \text{factor} \rangle \} \]
\[ \Sigma = \{ a, +, \times, (, ) \} \]
\[ R: \]

\[ \langle \text{expr} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{expr} \rangle + \langle \text{term} \rangle \mid \langle \text{term} \rangle \]
\[ \langle \text{term} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{term} \rangle \times \langle \text{factor} \rangle \mid \langle \text{factor} \rangle \]
\[ \langle \text{factor} \rangle \rightarrow (\langle \text{expr} \rangle) \mid a \]

Fig 2.5: check \( a + a \times a \)
Example 2.4 II

\[
\text{check } (a + a) \times a
\]
Example 2.4 III

\[(a + a) \times a\]
Example 2.4 IV
\[
\{0^n1^n \mid n \geq 0\} \cup \{1^n0^n \mid n \geq 0\}
\]

\[
S_1 \rightarrow 0S_11 \mid \epsilon
\]

\[
S_2 \rightarrow 1S_20 \mid \epsilon
\]

\[
S \rightarrow S_1 \mid S_2
\]

- If CFG regular \(\Rightarrow\) by DFA

\[
R_i \rightarrow aR_j \text{ if } \delta(q_i, a) = q_j
\]

\[
R_i \rightarrow \epsilon \text{ if } q_i \in F
\]

- We see the main difference between CFG and DFA
Design Grammars II

CFG: a rule can be like

\[ R_i \rightarrow aR_j b \]

DFA: a rule can only be

\[ R_i \rightarrow aR_j, \]

where we treat each \( R_i \) as a state and let

\[ \delta(R_i, a) = R_j \]
Ambiguity I

- The same string but obtained in different ways
- For the example of mathematical expressions discussed earlier, what if we consider the following rules?

\[
\langle \text{expr} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{expr} \rangle + \langle \text{expr} \rangle | \\
\langle \text{expr} \rangle \times \langle \text{expr} \rangle | (\langle \text{expr} \rangle) | a
\]

We see the following ways to parse

\[ a + a \times a \]
Fig 2.6

This CFG does not give the precedence relation

We want that $a \times a$ is done first
By the more complicated CFG earlier, the parsing is unambiguous

Question: how to formally define the ambiguity?

We need to define “leftmost derivation” first
Even for an unambiguous CFG we may have the same parse tree, but different derivations. For the CFG discussed earlier we can do:

\[
\langle \text{expr} \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \text{expr} \rangle + \langle \text{term} \rangle \\
\Rightarrow \langle \text{term} \rangle + \langle \text{term} \rangle \times \langle \text{factor} \rangle
\]

where the second part is expanded. On the other hand, we can handle the first one first:

\[
\langle \text{expr} \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \text{expr} \rangle + \langle \text{term} \rangle \\
\Rightarrow \langle \text{term} \rangle + \langle \text{term} \rangle
\]
This is not considered ambiguous
Definition of leftmost derivation: at every step the leftmost remaining variable is the one replaced.
Formal definition of ambiguity

- $w$ ambiguous if there exist two leftmost derivations
- Some context-free languages can be generated by ambiguous & unambiguous grammars
- We say a CFG is inherently ambiguous if it only has ambiguous grammars

See prob 2.29 in the textbook. Details not given here.