

Top Hat # 2233

Suppose  $G$  is a context-free grammar that is trying to meet some external specification  $E \subseteq \Sigma^*$ .

$G$  is sound for  $E$  if  $L(G) \subseteq E$ .

$G$  is comprehensive for  $E$  if  $L(G) \supseteq E$ .

(Logical term is "complete.")

$G$  is correct if  $L(G) = E$ , i.e.,  $G$  is both sound and comprehensive

The term "sound" comes from logic, in which proofs are a more general kind of derivation and a proof system is sound if every theorem it derives is actually true.

Example:  $\Sigma = \{ '(', ')' \}$ ,  $E =$  the language of nonempty balanced-pare strings.

$G = S \rightarrow (S)S \mid ()$

"Structural Induction" (SI) for CFGs.

Is  $G$  sound? A particular technique for seeing this kind of thing.

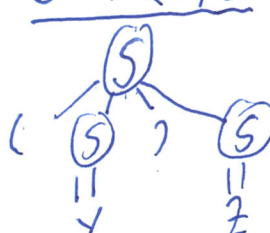
Method (Proof Script)

- Assign to each variable  $A$  a property  $P_A$ .  $P_S \equiv$  "Every string that I derive is balanced and nonempty?"
- $P_S$  should imply membership in  $E$ .
- Go through each rule  $A \rightarrow X$  and show that if every variable  $B$  on the R.H.S. derives a string  $u$  (or  $v \dots$ ) that obeys  $P_B$  then the whole resulting string obeys  $P_A$ . Then we can deduce  $L(G) \subseteq E$  by SI.

( $B$  can be  $A$  itself or  $S$  too.)

$S \rightarrow ()$ : Suppose  $S \Rightarrow^* x$  using this rule first (utrf). Then  $x = ()$  which is balanced and nonempty. This upholds  $P_S$  on the L.H.S.

$S \rightarrow (S)S$ : Suppose  $S \Rightarrow^* x$  utrf. Then  $x =: (y)z$  where  $S \Rightarrow^* y$  and  $S \Rightarrow^* z$ . By IH  $P_S$  on the R.H.S. (twice),  $y$  and  $z$  are both balanced and  $\neq \epsilon$ .



Then  $x = (y)z$  is balanced because the '(' shown matches the ')' and  $y$  and  $z$  are individually balanced. And  $x \neq \epsilon$  clearly.  $\therefore P_S$  on LHS. Since we upheld all rules,  $L(G) \subseteq E$  by SI.  $\square$

Is  $G$  comprehensive?  $[S \rightarrow (S)S \mid ()]$  No:  $G$  cannot derive  $x = (())$ .

One <sup>should not try</sup> cannot to use SI to prove comprehensiveness, but can use SI to disprove.

In fact,  $S$  obeys the stronger property  $P_S' \equiv$  Every string  $x$  I derive is in  $E$  and either equals  $()$  or has nesting.

By IH  $P_S$  on RHS,  $y$  is also nonempty as well as balanced. Hence  $x = (y)z$  has nesting. Thus we get  $L(G) \subseteq E' \cup \{()\}$

where  $E' = \{ \text{balanced } x = x = ()^n \text{ or } x \text{ has nesting (hence } x \neq \epsilon \text{ either way)} \}$ .

Since clearly  $(()) \notin E'$ ,  $E' \subsetneq E$ , so  $L(G) \subsetneq E$ . Hence  $G$  is not correct either.

Study exercise: Show that  $G$  cannot derive  $(())$  (this "fully-nested" string) either. This leads to the question: Can we expand  $G$ , keeping it sound, by adding rules so it becomes comprehensive? Try adding:

$S \rightarrow (S)$  Clearly sound but does not help us derive  $x$ .

$S \rightarrow ()S$  Also sound, helps give  $x$  but not  $\epsilon$ . Generally hard to prove.

Adding both rules makes the resulting  $G'$  comprehensive.

Second example of Soundness:  $E = \{ x \in \{a,b\}^* \mid \#a(x) = \#b(x) \}$ .

$G_2$ :  $S \rightarrow SS \mid aB \mid bA \mid \epsilon$   $P_S =$  Every  $x$  I derive is in  $E$ .

$A \rightarrow aS \mid bAA$   $P_A =$  every  $y$  st  $A \Rightarrow y$  has 1 more <sup>than b</sup> a

$B \rightarrow bS \mid aBB$   $P_B =$  every  $z$  st  $B \Rightarrow z$  has 1 more <sup>than a</sup> b

Proof of soundness will be included Thursday, and comprehensiveness sketched.

As for why  $G' = S \rightarrow (S)S \mid (S) \mid ()S \mid ()$  is comprehensive for  $E$ , we will get that as a consequence of the Chomsky NF conversion for  $G_0 = S \rightarrow (S)S \mid \epsilon$ .