

Lecture 7e 4/7. Technique for proving non-CFLness of a language  $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ :

Let any (sufficiently large)  $p > 0$  be given.

Take  $x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$  such that  $x \in L$  and  $|x| \geq p$  indeed often  $|x| \gg p$ .

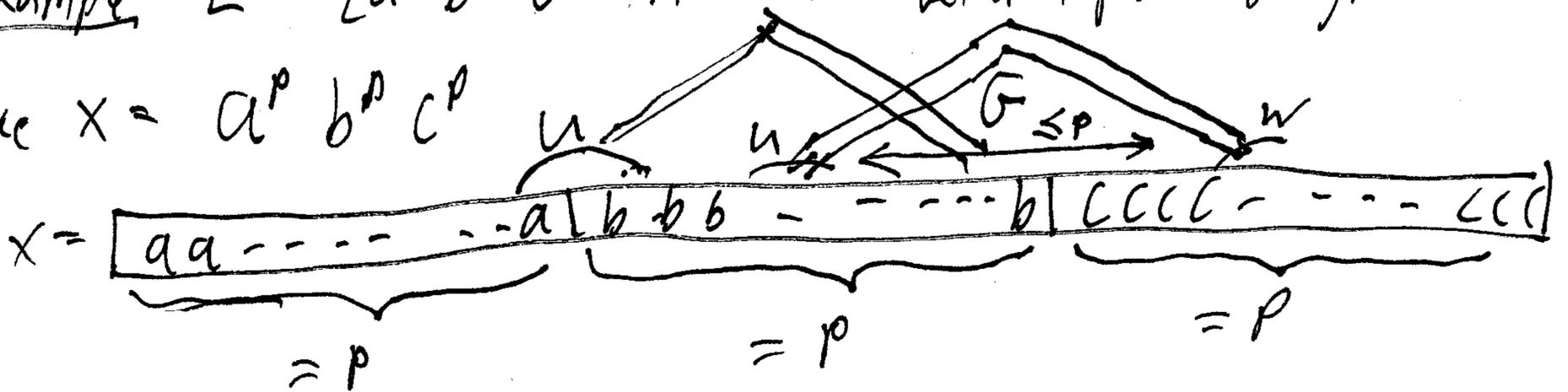
Let any breakdown  $x =: yuvwz$  subject to  $|uvw| \leq p$  and  $uw \neq \epsilon$  be given.

Take  $i = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$  so that you can get  $x^{(i)} =_{\text{def}} yu^i v w^i z \notin L$ . ( $i=0$  is allowed).

Then  $L$  is not a CFL.

Example:  $L = \{a^n b^n c^n : n \geq 0\}$ . Let any  $p > 0$  be given.

Take  $x = a^p b^p c^p$



Take  $x^{(2)} = yuuvvwwz$ . By  $|uvw| \leq p$ ,  $uvw$  can't both contain an 'a' and a 'c', so either  $\#a(x^{(2)})$  or  $\#c(x^{(2)})$  remains equal to  $p$ . We get at least one other character, so we cannot have all of  $\#a, \#b, \#c$  equal to  $p$ , so  $x^{(2)}$  can't possibly belong to  $L$ . Hence  $L$  is not a CFL.  $\boxtimes$

$\boxtimes$  The same proof works for  $L' = \{x \in \{a,b,c\}^* : \#a(x) = \#b(x) = \#c(x)\}$ . Could also reason that since  $R = a^* b^* c^*$  is a regular set, if  $L'$  were a CFL then so would be  $L' \cap R$ , but this equals  $L$ .

Note  $L = \{a^n b^n c^n : n, r \geq 0\} \cap \{a^n b^n c^n : n, r \geq 0\}$ . ②

The two languages being intersected are CFLs  $L_1$   $L_2$

CFG for  $L_1$ :  $S \rightarrow TC, C \rightarrow cC \mid \epsilon$  ( $L_c = c^*$ )  
 $T \rightarrow aTb \mid \epsilon$ .

CFG for  $L_2$ :  $S \rightarrow AT', A \rightarrow aA \mid \epsilon, T' \rightarrow bT'c \mid \epsilon$ .

∴ The class of CFLs, unlike the class of regular languages, is not closed under intersection.

$\tilde{L}$  is a CFL (remarked on HW)

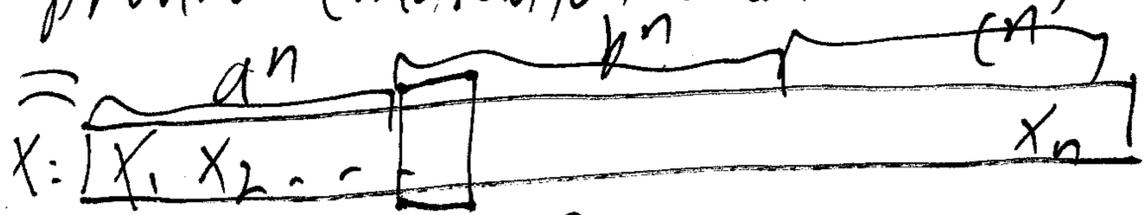
• It is closed under Union.

• Hence it is also not closed under complements — if it were, we would get closure under  $\cap$  via  $L_1 \cap L_2 = \sim(\tilde{L}_1 \cup \tilde{L}_2)$ .

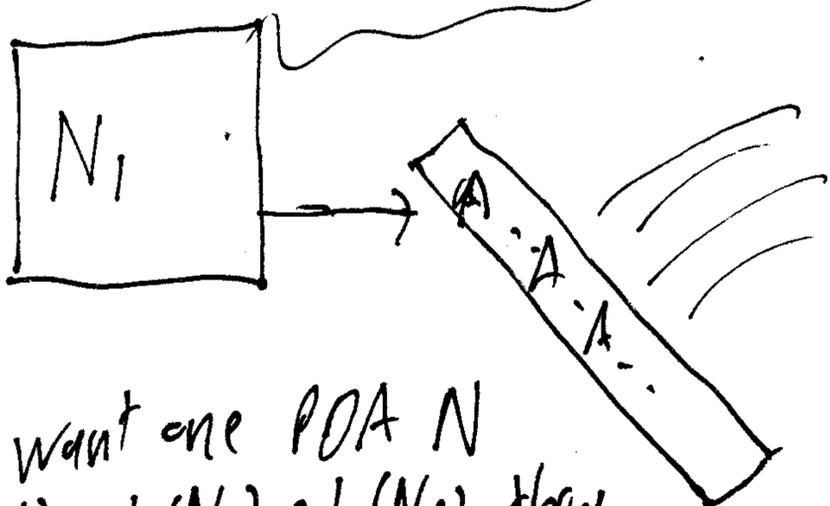
• However, if  $L$  is a CFL and  $R$  is a regular set, then  $L \cap R$  (and of course  $L \cup R$ ) are CFLs.

Why the Cartesian product construction doesn't work for two PDAs?

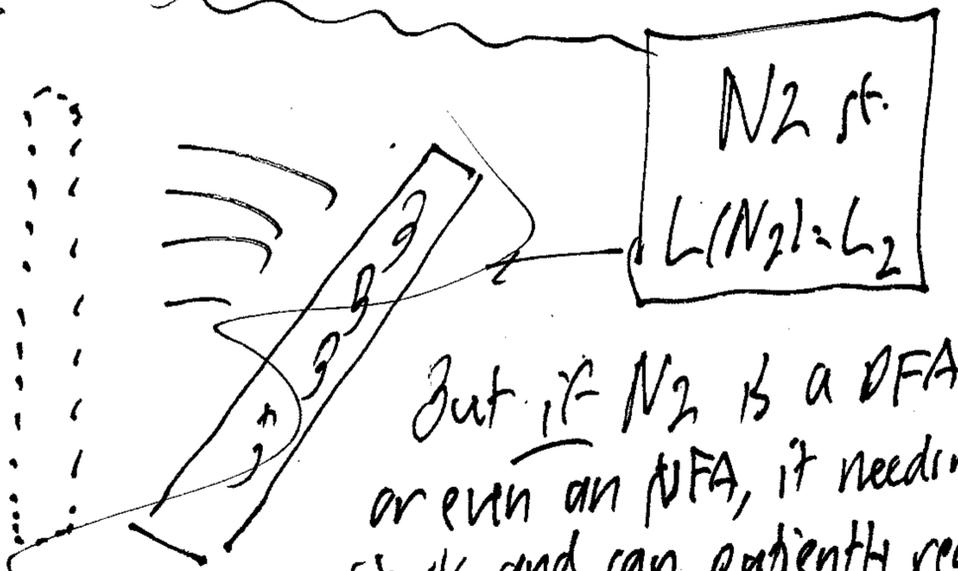
$x \in L_1 \cap L_2$



NPDA  
 $N_1$  st.  
 $L(N_1) = L_1$



If we want one PDA  $N$  st.  $L(N) = L(N_1) \cap L(N_2)$  they must agree on sharing one stack.



But if  $N_2$  is a DFA, or even an NFA, it needs no stack and can patiently react to inputs  $N_1$  reads, so  $N$  is ok.

Example 2:  $A = \{ a^m b^n c^m d^n : m, n \geq 0 \}$  is not a CFL.

Proof: Let any (suff. large)  $p > 0$  be given. Take  $x = a^p b^p c^p d^p$ .



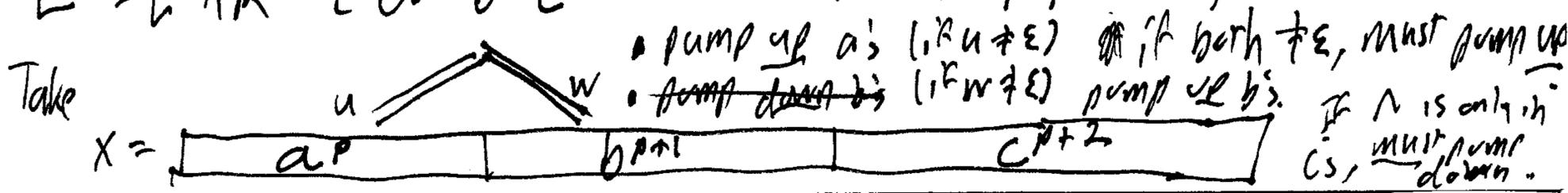
Let any break-down  $x = yuvwz$  with  $|uvw| \leq p$ ,  $u, w$  not both  $\epsilon$ , be given. The compass must "touch" at least one region A, B, C, or D.

- But:
- If it touches A, it can't also touch C.  $x^{(1)} = yu^i v w^i z$
  - If it touches B, it can't also touch D.  $= x$
  - " " " " C " " " " A  $x^{(i)} = y u^i v w^i z$
  - " " " " D " " " " B  $x^{(i)} = y v z$

Hence in  $x^{(0)}$  or  $x^{(2)}$  or any  $x^{(i)}$  with  $i \neq 1$ , the restrictions  $\#a = \#c$  and  $\#b = \#d$  cannot both be preserved. So  $x^{(i)} \notin A$ , so A is not a CFL.

- Same proof works for  $A'' = \{ a^m b^n a^m b^n : m, n \geq 1 \}$ .
- Then it also works for  $\{ WW : w \in \{a, b\}^* \}$  (for double words). The argument is then easiest for  $i=0$ . Another way: take  $R = a^+ b^+ a^+ b^+$  and use  $D \cap R = A''$ , so if D were a CFL then  $A''$  would be also.

- The "∩R" idea helps somewhat with languages like  $R = a^+ b^+ c^+$
- $L'' = \{ x \in \{a, b, c\}^* : \#a(x) > \#b(x) \text{ \underline{and} } \#b(x) > \#c(x) \}$ .
- $L''' = L'' \cap R = \{ a^m b^n c^p : m > n \text{ and } \overline{n > p} \}$ . Enough to show  $L'''$  not a CFL.



CFGs can handle nested and sequential binary dependencies: <sup>(4)</sup>

$B_1 = \{a^m b^n a^n b^m\}$  is a CFL, by nesting.

CFG  $S \rightarrow aSb \mid T$

$T \rightarrow bTa \mid \epsilon$ .

$B_2 = \{a^m b^m a^n b^n : m, n \geq 0\}$  is also a CFL,

it is in fact equal to  $A \cdot A$  where  $A = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 0\}$ .

What kind of machine can handle  $\{a^n b^n c^n\}$  and  $\{a^n b^n c^n d^n\}$ ?

What capabilities can we add to a DFA to handle these languages?

$x = \boxed{= a^n? \quad \vdots \quad = b^n? \quad \vdots \quad = c^n?}$  for some  $n \geq 0$ ?

(1) Allow the DFA to change a char on the tape.

(2) Allow the DFA to move its read head L as well as R.

(1) by itself makes no difference - the new char could be lumped in with a new state in  $Q \times \Sigma = Q$

(2) by itself also makes no difference. <sup>NFA</sup>  
 HARD THM, Not in text! Two-way DFA crossing sequences.

(1) & (2) together create a Turing Machine:  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, s, F)$  <sup>acc, rej</sup>

where  $\delta \subseteq (Q \times \Gamma) \times (\Gamma \times \{L, R, \overset{\text{stay}}{S}\}) \times Q$ .

$(p, c/d, D, q)$