

## E04: Context-free grammars

**E04-1:** Suppose there is a nonterminal *stmt* for statements. Construct an EBNF grammar for a sequence of

- (a) zero or more statements, with a semicolon after each statement.
- (b) one or more statements, with a semicolon between statements.
- (c) zero or more statements, with a semicolon between statements.

**E04-2:** Translate the grammars in the previous problem to canonical form.

**E04-3:** The following grammar generates a language on the alphabet { "(", ")" }.  
$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow "(" S ")" \\ S &\rightarrow S S \\ S &\rightarrow "(" " ")" \end{aligned}$$

- (a) Which strings with length 6 belong to the language?
- (b) The grammar is ambiguous. Which is the shortest string in the language with at least two parse trees?

**E04-4:** The following grammar is ambiguous. Construct an unambiguous grammar accepting the same language.  
$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow "(" S ")" \\ S &\rightarrow S S \\ S &\rightarrow \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

**E04-5:** The following grammar for logical expressions is ambiguous.  
$$\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow "!" E \\ E &\rightarrow E "&" E \\ E &\rightarrow E "||" E \end{aligned}$$

$$E \rightarrow ID$$

Assume that `!` has higher precedence than `&&` which in turn precedes over `||`. Construct an unambiguous EBNF grammar that respects the precedences describing the same language.

**E04-6:** Construct a canonical grammar that is equivalent to the following EBNF rule.

$$\text{CallStmt} \rightarrow ID "(" (\epsilon \mid \text{Expr} ( "," \text{Expr} )^* ) ") "$$

**E04-7:** Every language that is described by a regular expression can be described by a *right regular grammar*, where all productions have one of the forms

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow a B \\ A &\rightarrow a \\ A &\rightarrow \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

where  $A$  and  $B$  are non-terminals and  $a$  is a terminal. Note that right recursion is allowed, but not left recursion.<sup>1</sup>

Construct a right regular grammar for the language described by the regular expression

$$(a^* b) \mid (b a^*)$$

Is it possible to do this without using productions on the form  $A \rightarrow a$  ?

**E04-8:** Suppose you would like to write a parser that can parse basic regular expressions over the alphabet  $\{ "a", "b" \}$ . Some short strings in this language are: `"a"`, `"b"`, `"a*"`, `"ab"`, `"(abb)*"`, `"(a|b)"`.

- What is the alphabet of this regular expression language?
- Construct an EBNF grammar for this language, and that respects the normal precedences of the regular expression operators.

---

<sup>1</sup>Equivalently, each regular expression can be described by a *left regular grammar* which only allows left recursion.