

# Languages and Machines (Module 7 TCS+IAM)

## L&M 6: Pushdown Automata (PDA) and Context-Free Languages

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of Twente

Lecture 6

# Contents

- 1 Pushdown Automata
- 2 Deterministic PDAs
- 3 More Variations on PDAs
  - Empty stack or final state
  - Extended Pushdown Automata
- 4 From CFGs to PDAs
  - Construction
  - Greibach Normal Form

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# Stack

Pushdown Automata extend Finite Automata with a **Stack**.

A **Stack**:

- holds an unbounded amount of elements
- can be accessed only in a restricted way
  - We can push an element on top of the stack
  - We can pop an element from the stack

LIFO = Last-in, First-out

# Pushdown automata (PDAs)

## Definition

A *pushdown automaton* is a tuple  $\langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F \rangle$

- $Q$  is a set of states
- $\Sigma$  is *input* alphabet
- $\Gamma$  is *stack* alphabet
- $\delta \subseteq Q \times \Sigma^\lambda \times \Gamma^\lambda \times \Gamma^\lambda \times Q$  is transition relation ( $X^\lambda = X \cup \{\lambda\}$ )
- $q_0 \in Q$  is start state
- $F \subseteq Q$  is set of final states

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Differences with finite automata:

- $\Gamma$  is the *stack alphabet* (cf. variables in CFGs)
- Transitions: 5-tuples  $(q, a, A, A', q')$  instead of 3-tuples  $(q, a, q')$
- We write  $q \xrightarrow{a \ A/A'} q'$  instead of  $(q, a, A, A', q') \in \delta$

# Computations of a pushdown automaton

- Configurations are combination  $[q, w, \alpha]$ , where  $q \in Q$ ,  $w \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $\alpha \in \Gamma^*$  ( $\alpha$  is the *stack*).
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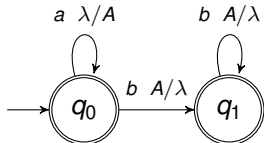
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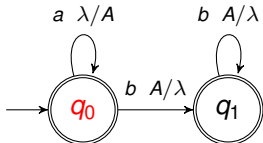
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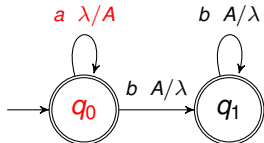
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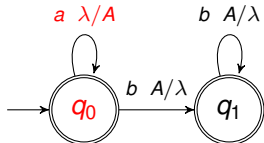
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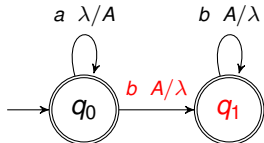
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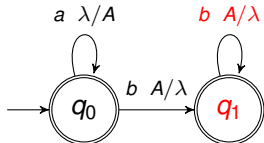
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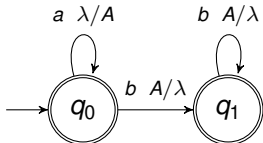
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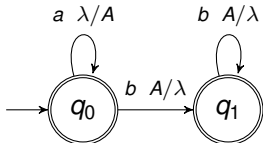
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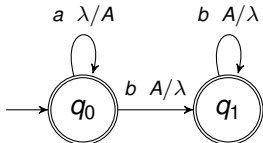
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# Language of a pushdown automaton

## Definition

The language  $L(M)$  of a pushdown automaton

$M = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F \rangle$  is the set of words  $w$ , for which a computation exists such that:

- beginning in  $[q_0, w, \lambda]$
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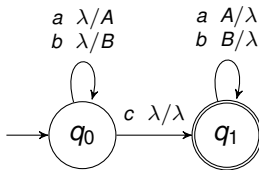
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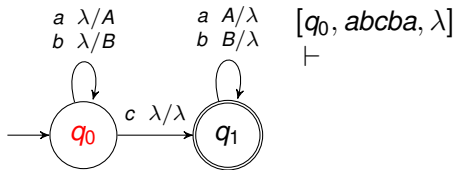
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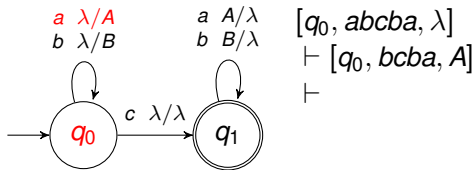
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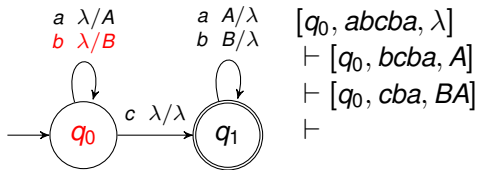
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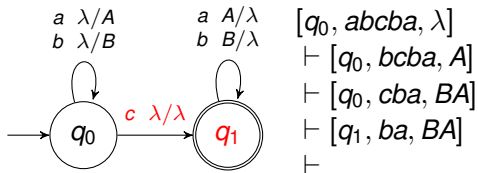
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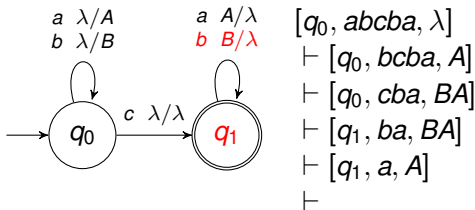
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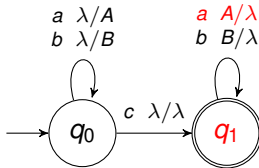
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- Set of stack variables empty
- Stack always remains empty
- Regular transition  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  converted to “stack transition”

$$q \xrightarrow{a \lambda/\lambda} q'$$

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# Deterministic pushdown automata

## Definition: Overlapping transitions

Transitions  $q \xrightarrow{x_1 A_1/B_1} q_1$  and  $q \xrightarrow{x_2 A_2/B_2} q_2$  *overlap* if

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Intuition: overlapping transitions leave options open

- $q \xrightarrow{a A/B_1} q_1$  versus  $q \xrightarrow{a A/B_2} q_2$
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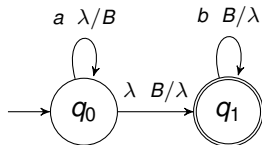
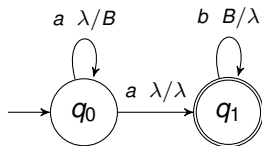
## Definition: Determinism

Pushdown automata without overlapping transitions are *deterministic*

# Examples (non-)deterministic pushdown automata

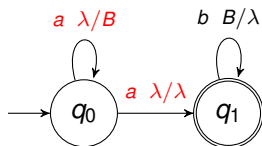
The following automata are equivalent (language:

$$\{a^m b^n \mid m = n + 1\})$$

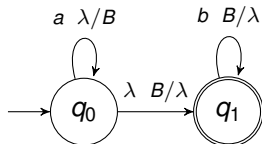


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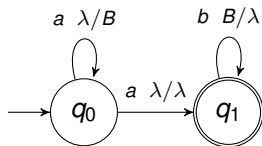
overlap



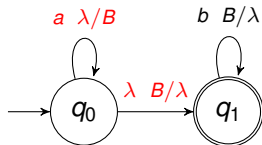
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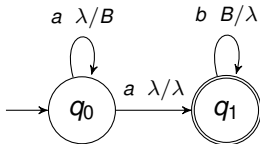


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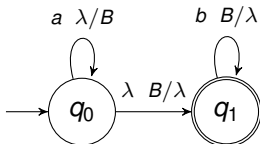
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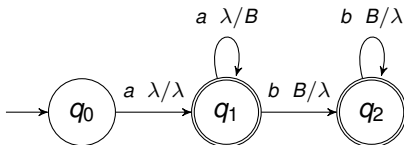
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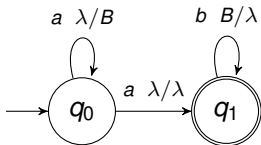


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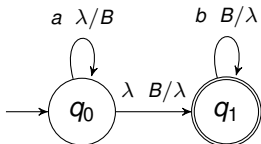


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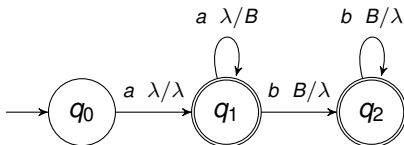
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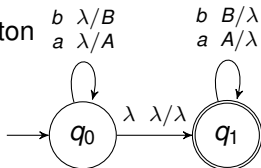
overlap



deterministic

# Strength of deterministic pushdown automata

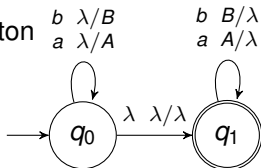
- Consider the automaton



- Language:

# Strength of deterministic pushdown automata

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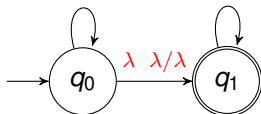


- Language:  $L = \{ww^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$

# Strength of deterministic pushdown automata

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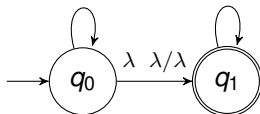
$b$	$\lambda/B$	$b$	$B/\lambda$
$a$	$\lambda/A$	$a$	$A/\lambda$



- Language:  $L = \{ww^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$
- The outgoing transitions of  $q_0$  overlap
  - When recognizing  $abba$  we should go to  $q_1$  after  $ab$
  - When recognizing  $abbbba$  we should remain in  $q_0$  after  $ab$
  - In general: the automaton must *guess* the middle of the word

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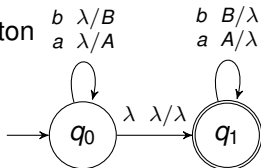
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  - In general: the automaton must *guess* the middle of the word
- $L$  has *no* deterministic pushdown automaton!
- Thus deterministic pushdown automata are **less powerful**
  - Different from finite automata

# What's next?

## Intriguing Matter

- We will find out if the following holds:  
 $(L = \mathcal{L}(G) \text{ for a CFG } G) \Leftrightarrow (L = \mathcal{L}(M) \text{ for a PDA } M)$

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Each PDA for palindromes must “guess” the middle.

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The class of DPDAs is quite different from the class of PDAs

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deterministic\\_pushdown\\_automaton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deterministic_pushdown_automaton)

# Contents

- 1 Pushdown Automata
- 2 Deterministic PDAs
- 3 More Variations on PDAs**
  - Empty stack or final state
  - Extended Pushdown Automata
- 4 From CFGs to PDAs
  - Construction
  - Greibach Normal Form

# Playing with acceptance conditions

## Definition: Acceptance by final state

The language  $L_F(M)$  of a pushdown automaton  $M = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F \rangle$  is the set of words  $w$  with a computation,

- beginning in  $[q_0, w, \lambda]$
- ending in  $[q, \lambda, \alpha]$  with  $q \in F$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma^*$ .

*Remark:* The  $F$  in  $L_F$  stands for “final”.

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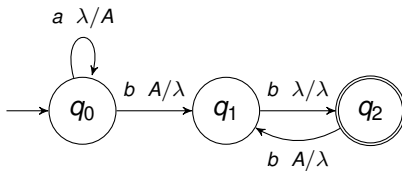
$M = \langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F \rangle$  is the set of words  $w$  for which a *non-empty* computation exists, such that

- beginning in  $[q_0, w, \lambda]$
- ending in  $[q, \lambda, \lambda]$  for some  $q \in Q$ .

*Remark:*  $E$  in  $L_E$  stands for “empty”. The  $F$  is now superfluous.

# Alternative acceptance: Example

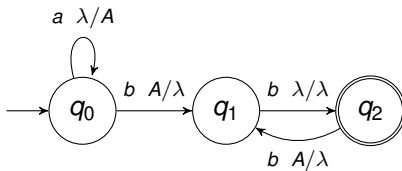
Example pushdown automaton:



- $L(M) =$
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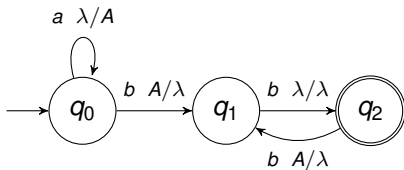
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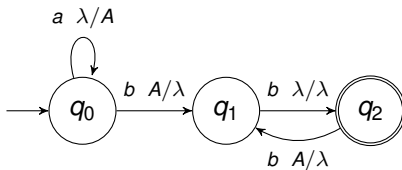
Example pushdown automaton:



- $L(M) = \{a^n b^{2^n} \mid n > 0\}$
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 ... (every computation that ends in  $q_2$  is done)
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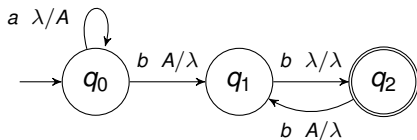
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 ... (every computation that ends in  $q_2$  is done)
- $L_E(M) = \{a^n (b^{2n-1} \cup b^{2n}) \mid n > 0\}$   
 ... (the stack is already empty in  $q_1$ , so the computation is done)

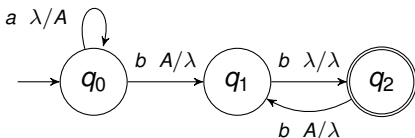
# From and to acceptance by final state: Example

- $L(M) = \{a^n b^{2n} \mid n > 0\}$  and  $L_F(M) = \{a^n b^{2k} \mid n > 0, 0 < k \leq n\}$ :



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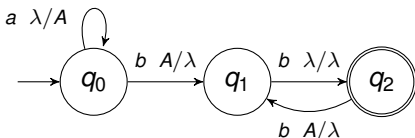
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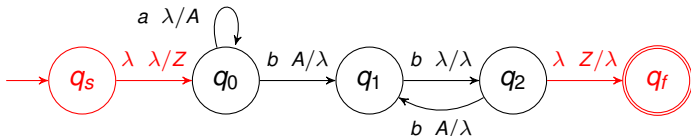
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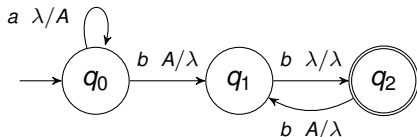


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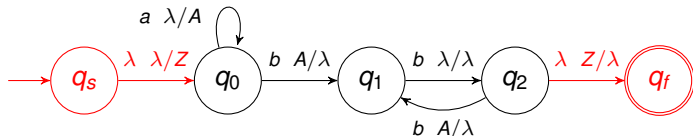


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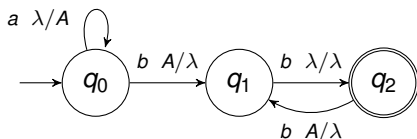
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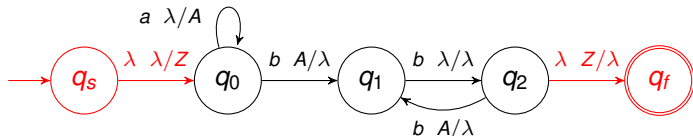
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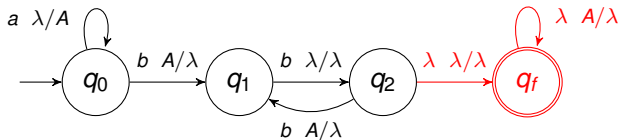
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Theorem: For every language  $X \subseteq \Sigma^*$  the following is equivalent:

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Differently formulated:

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 new transformations  $q_s \xrightarrow{\lambda \ \lambda/Z} q_0$ , and  $q \xrightarrow{\lambda \ Z/\lambda} q_f$  (all  $q \in F$ )

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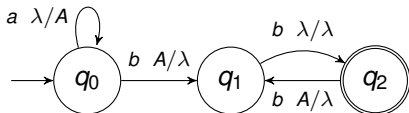
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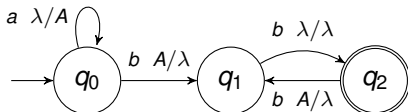
# From and to acceptance by empty stack: Example

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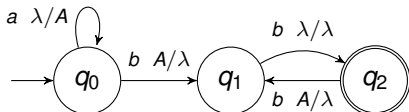
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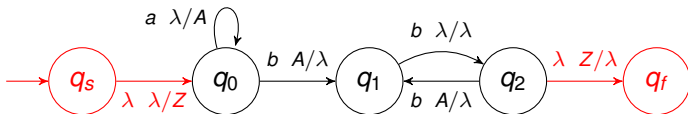
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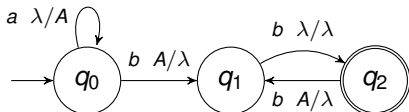


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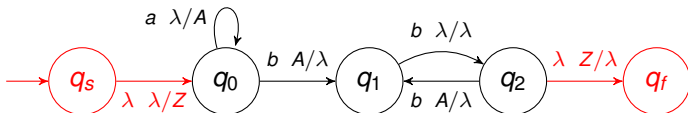


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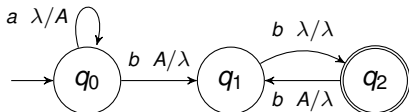
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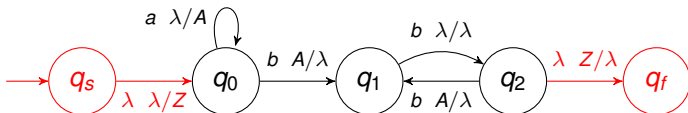
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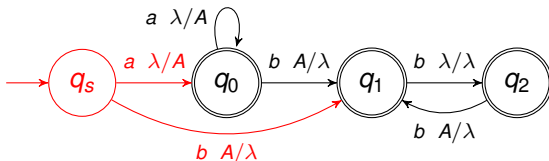
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## Construction

# Acceptance by empty stack

**Theorem:** For every language  $X \subseteq \Sigma^*$  the following is equivalent:

- A PDA  $M$  exists such that  $L(M) = X$ ;
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This is equivalent to the following statements:

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## Construction

- 1 The same as for acceptance by final state!
- 2  $Q' = Q \uplus \{q_s\}$ ,  $\Gamma' = \Gamma$ ,  $F' = Q$ ; new transitions  
 $q_s \xrightarrow{x A/B} q'$  for all  $q_0 \xrightarrow{x A/B} q'$

# Extended pushdown automata

## Definition

An *extended* pushdown automata has a transition function

$$\delta \subseteq Q \times \Sigma^\lambda \times \Gamma^\lambda \times \Gamma^* \times Q$$

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## Transformation from extended to normal automata

An equivalent normal PDA exists for every extended PDA.

# Extended pushdown automata: example

- Language: “even” palindromes over  $\{a, b, c\}$

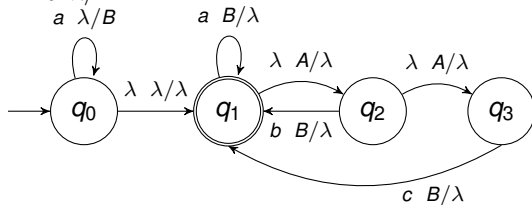
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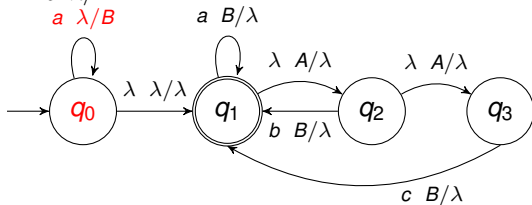
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$\vdash$

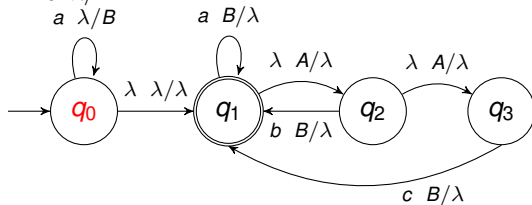
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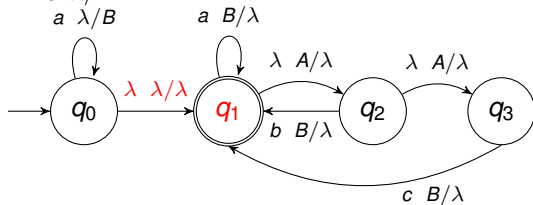
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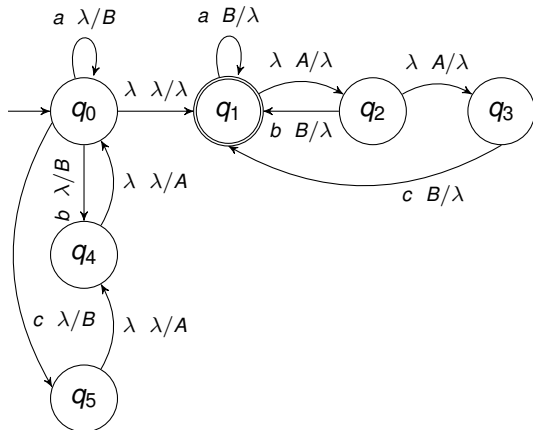






# Extended pushdown automata: example

- Language: “even” palindromes over  $\{a, b, c\}$



- Equivalent normal pushdown automaton

# Contents

- 1 Pushdown Automata
- 2 Deterministic PDAs
- 3 More Variations on PDAs
  - Empty stack or final state
  - Extended Pushdown Automata
- 4 From CFGs to PDAs**
  - Construction
  - Greibach Normal Form

# From CFGs to PDAs

## Definition: Greibach Normal Form (GNF)

$G = \langle V, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  is in *Greibach normal form* if for all rules:

- $A \rightarrow a B_1 B_2 \cdots B_n$  ( $n \geq 0$ , all  $B_i \neq S$ ), or
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## Theorem 3

A CFG  $G$  exists for every PDA  $M$  such that  $L(M) = L(G)$   
(it's possible, but a very tedious construction)

# From CFGs to PDAs: Example

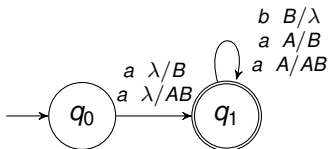
- GNF for  $\{a^i b^i \mid i > 0\}$ :

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- Constructed (extended) automaton:



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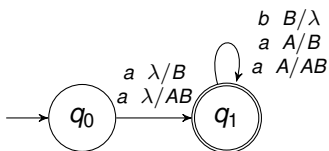
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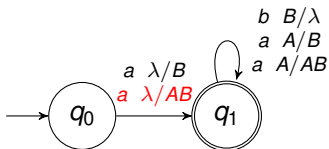
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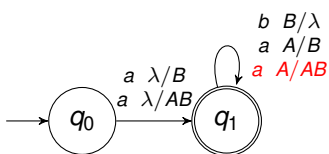
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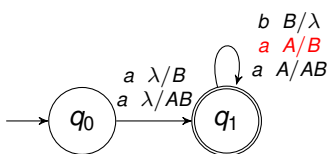
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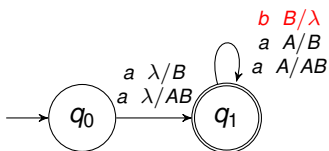
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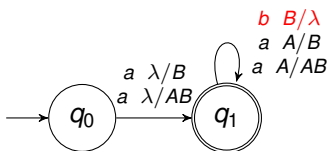
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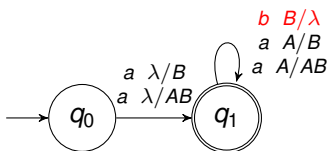
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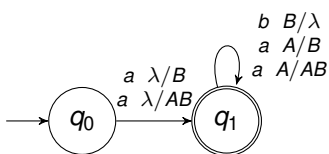
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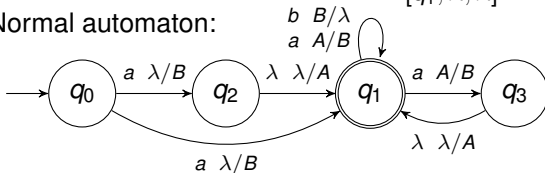
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- Normal automaton:



# From CFGs to PDAs (3)

## Definition: Greibach Normal Form (GNF)

$G = \langle V, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$  is in *Greibach normal form* if for all rules:

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### Theorem

An *extended PDA*  $M$  exists for every GNF  $G$  such that  $L(M) = L(G)$

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## Construction

$M = \langle \{q_0, q_1\}, \Sigma, V \setminus \{S\}, \delta, \{q_1\} \rangle$  with transitions

- 1  $q_0 \xrightarrow{\lambda \ \lambda/\lambda} q_1$  as  $(S \rightarrow \lambda) \in P$ ;
- 2  $q_0 \xrightarrow{a \ \lambda/W} q_1$  for all  $(S \rightarrow aW) \in P$ , where  $W \in V^*$ ;
- 3  $q_1 \xrightarrow{a \ A/W} q_1$  for all  $(A \rightarrow aW) \in P$  and  $A \in V \setminus \{S\}$

# Construction GNF

## Theorem

A GNF  $G'$  exists for every grammar  $G$  such that  $L(G) = L(G')$

### Transformation steps:

- 1 Stratify: order variables, and from low to high
  - Inlining rules that start with “lower” variable
  - Removing direct left recursion
- 2 From high to low: inlining remaining start variables
- 3 Introducing special non-terminals  $R_a \rightarrow a$

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### Intermediate steps: Stratified grammar

$G$  is *stratified* if the non-terminals are ordered, and

- $S \rightarrow \lambda$ , or
- $A \rightarrow aw$  with  $a \in \Sigma$  and  $w \in (V \setminus \{S\} \cup \Sigma)^*$
- $A \rightarrow Bw$  with  $B \in V$  and  $w \in (V \setminus \{S\} \cup \Sigma)^*$ , and  $A < B$

# Construction GNF: Example

Initial grammar:  $S \rightarrow Aa$      $A \rightarrow Ac \mid Bc \mid b$      $B \rightarrow Aa$

## 1 Stratify

- Order variables:
- Inline lower variables in  $S$ -rule:
- Inline lower variables in  $A$ -rule:
- Remove left recursion in  $A$ :
  
- Inline lower variable  $A$  in  $B$ -rule:
  
- Remove left recursion in  $B$ :

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Initial grammar:  $S \rightarrow Aa$      $A \rightarrow Ac \mid Bc \mid b$      $B \rightarrow Aa$

## 1 Stratify

- Order variables:  $S < A < B$
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## 1 Stratify

- Order variables:  $S < A < B$
- Inline lower variables in  $S$ -rule: unnecessary
- Inline lower variables in  $A$ -rule:
- Remove left recursion in  $A$ :
  
- Inline lower variable  $A$  in  $B$ -rule:
  
- Remove left recursion in  $B$ :

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- Inline lower variables in  $S$ -rule: unnecessary
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- Remove left recursion in  $A$ : Helper variable  $A' < A$

$$A \rightarrow BcA' \mid bA' \mid Bc \mid b$$

$$A' \rightarrow cA' \mid c$$

- Inline lower variable  $A$  in  $B$ -rule:
  
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- Inline lower variable  $A$  in  $B$ -rule:

$$B \rightarrow BcA'a \mid bA'a \mid Bca \mid ba$$

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# Construction GNF: Example

Initial grammar:  $S \rightarrow Aa$      $A \rightarrow Ac \mid Bc \mid b$      $B \rightarrow Aa$

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# Construction GNF: Example, steps 2 and 3

State of affairs: Stratified grammar

$$S \rightarrow Aa$$

$$A' \rightarrow cA' \mid c$$

$$A \rightarrow BcA' \mid bA' \mid Bc \mid b$$

$$B' \rightarrow cA'aB' \mid caB' \mid cA'a \mid ca$$

$$B \rightarrow bA'aB' \mid baB' \mid bA'a \mid ba$$

2 Inline higher variables (first  $B > A$ , then  $A > S$ )

3 Use special variables

# Construction GNF: Example, steps 2 and 3

State of affairs: Stratified grammar

$$S \rightarrow Aa$$

$$A' \rightarrow cA' \mid c$$

$$A \rightarrow \mathbf{B}cA' \mid bA' \mid Bc \mid b$$

$$B' \rightarrow cA'aB' \mid caB' \mid cA'a \mid ca$$

$$B \rightarrow \mathbf{bA'aB'} \mid \mathbf{baB'} \mid \mathbf{bA'a} \mid \mathbf{ba}$$

- 2 Inline higher variables (first  $B > A$ , then  $A > S$ )

$$A \rightarrow \mathbf{bA'aB'}cA' \mid \mathbf{baB'}cA' \mid \mathbf{bA'acA'} \mid \mathbf{bacA'} \mid bA' \mid$$

$$bA'aB'c \mid baB'c \mid bA'ac \mid bac \mid b$$

$$S \rightarrow bA'aB'cA'a \mid baB'cA'a \mid bA'acA'a \mid bacA'a \mid bA'a \mid$$

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$$B \rightarrow bA'aB' \mid baB' \mid bA'a \mid ba$$

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$$bA'aB'c \mid baB'c \mid bA'ac \mid bac \mid b$$

$$S \rightarrow bA'aB'cA'a \mid baB'cA'a \mid bA'acA'a \mid bacA'a \mid bA'a \mid$$

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$$S \rightarrow bA'aB'cA'a \mid baB'cA'a \mid bA'acA'a \mid bacA'a \mid bA'a \mid$$

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# Construction GNF: End result

We started with the following Context-free Grammer:

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$$A \rightarrow Ac \mid Bc \mid b$$

$$B \rightarrow Aa$$

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We started with the following Context-free Grammer:

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We finally ended up with this equivalent Greibach Normal Form:

$$S \rightarrow bA'R_aB'R_cA'R_a \mid bR_aB'R_cA'R_a \mid bA'R_aR_cA'R_a \mid bR_aR_cA'R_a \mid bA'R_a \mid$$

$$bA'R_aB'R_cR_a \mid bR_aB'R_cR_a \mid bA'R_aR_cR_a \mid bR_aR_cR_a \mid bR_a$$

$$A \rightarrow bA'R_aB'R_cA' \mid bR_aB'R_cA' \mid bA'R_aR_cA' \mid bR_aR_cA' \mid bA' \mid$$

$$bA'R_aB'R_c \mid bR_aB'R_c \mid bA'R_aR_c \mid bR_aR_c \mid b$$

$$B \rightarrow bA'R_aB' \mid bR_aB' \mid bA'R_a \mid bR_a$$

$$A' \rightarrow cA' \mid c$$

$$B' \rightarrow cA'R_aB' \mid cR_aB' \mid cA'R_a \mid cR_a$$

$$R_a \rightarrow a$$

$$R_b \rightarrow b$$

# Overview: Seen so far

Pushdown automata (PDA's):  $\langle Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F \rangle$

- Stack alphabet  $\Gamma$
- Transitions  $q \xrightarrow{a \ A/B} q'$

Variations on pushdown automata:

- Deterministic pushdown automata: *less powerful*
- Extended transitions  $q \xrightarrow{a \ A/W} q'$  with  $W \in \Gamma^*$
- Acceptance by final state and/or empty stack

Connection between CFGs and PDAs

- Greibach normal form for CFGs
- Transformation CFGs  $\rightarrow$  Greibach normal form
- Transformation Greibach normal form  $\rightarrow$  extended PDAs
- Also possible: Transformation PDAs  $\rightarrow$  CFGs

Next: Beyond Context-free languages

- **Pumping lemma for CFGs**
- Example:  $\{a^i b^j c^i \mid i \geq 0\}$  not context-free

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