Methods for Transforming Grammars (Read Ch 6 in Linz Book)

We will consider CFL without $\lambda$. It would be easy to add $\lambda$ to any grammar by adding a new start symbol $S_0$,

$$S_0 \to S \mid \lambda$$

**Theorem (Substitution)** Let $G$ be a CFG. Suppose $G$ contains

$$A \to x_1Bx_2$$

where $A$ and $B$ are different variables, and $B$ has the productions

$$B \to y_1|y_2|\ldots|y_n$$

Then can construct $G'$ from $G$ by deleting

$$A \to x_1Bx_2$$

from $P$ and adding to it

$$A \to x_1y_1x_2|x_1y_2x_2|\ldots|x_1y_nx_2$$

Then, $L(G)=L(G')$.

**Example:**

$S \to aBa$ becomes $B \to aS | a$

**Definition:** A production of the form $A \to Ax$, $A \in V$, $x \in (V \cup T)^*$ is *left recursive*. 

**Example** Previous expression grammar was left recursive.

\[
\begin{align*}
E & \rightarrow E+T \mid T \\
T & \rightarrow T+F \mid F \\
F & \rightarrow I \mid (E) \\
I & \rightarrow a \mid b
\end{align*}
\]

A top-down parser would want to derive the leftmost terminal as soon as possible. But in the left recursive grammar above, in order to derive a sentential form that has the leftmost terminal, we have to derive a sentential form that has other terminals in it.

Derivation of \(a+b+a+a\) is:

\[
E \Rightarrow E+T \Rightarrow E+T+T \Rightarrow E+T+T+T \Rightarrow a+T+T+T
\]

We will eliminate the left recursion so that we can derive a sentential form with the leftmost terminal and no other terminals.

**Theorem** (Removing Left recursion) Let \(G=(V,T,S,P)\) be a CFG. Divide productions for variable \(A\) into left-recursive and non left-recursive productions:

\[
\begin{align*}
A & \rightarrow Ax_1 \mid Ax_2 \mid \ldots \mid Ax_n \\
A & \rightarrow y_1[y_2] \ldots [y_m]
\end{align*}
\]

where \(x_i, y_i\) are in \((V \cup T)^*\).

Then \(G'=(V \cup \{Z\}, T, S, P')\) and \(P'\) replaces rules of form above by

\[
\begin{align*}
A & \rightarrow y_i[y_i]Z, \text{ i}=1,2,\ldots,m \\
Z & \rightarrow x_i[x_i]Z, \text{ i}=1,2,\ldots,n
\end{align*}
\]

**Example:**

\[
\begin{align*}
E & \rightarrow E+T|T \quad \text{becomes} \\
T & \rightarrow T+F|F \quad \text{becomes}
\end{align*}
\]

Now, Derivation of \(a+b+a+a\) is:
Useless productions

S → aB | bA
A → aA
B → Sa
C → cBc | a

What can you say about this grammar?

**Theorem** (useless productions) Let G be a CFG. Then ∃ G' that does not contain any useless variables or productions s.t. L(G)=L(G').

**To Remove Useless Productions:**

Let G=(V,T,S,P).

I. Compute $V_1=\{\text{Variables that can derive strings of terminals}\}$

1. $V_1=\emptyset$

2. Repeat until no more variables added
   - For every $A\in V$ with $A \rightarrow x_1x_2\ldots x_n$, $x_i \in (T^* \cup V_1)$, add $A$ to $V_1$

3. $P_1 = \text{all productions in } P \text{ with symbols in } (V_1 \cup T)^*$

Then $G_1=(V_1,T,S,P_1)$ has no variables that can’t derive strings.

II. Draw Variable Dependency Graph

For $A \rightarrow xBy$, draw $A \rightarrow B$.

Remove productions for $V$ if there is no path from $S$ to $V$ in the dependency graph. Resulting Grammar $G'$ is s.t. $L(G)=L(G')$ and $G'$ has no useless productions.

**Example:**

S → aB | bA
A → aA
B → Sa | b
C → cBc | a
D → bCb
E → Aa | b
Theorem (remove $\lambda$ productions) Let $G$ be a CFG with $\lambda$ not in $L(G)$. Then $\exists$ a CFG $G'$ having no $\lambda$-productions s.t. $L(G)=L(G')$.

To Remove $\lambda$-productions

1. Let $V_n = \{ A \mid \exists$ production $A\rightarrow \lambda \}$
2. Repeat until no more additions
   - if $B\rightarrow A_1A_2…A_m$ and $A_i\in V_n$ for all $i$, then put $B$ in $V_n$
3. Construct $G'$ with productions $P'$ s.t.
   - If $A\rightarrow x_1x_2…x_m \in P$, $m \geq 1$, then put all productions formed when $x_j$ is replaced by $\lambda$ (for all $x_j \in V_n$) s.t. $|\text{rhs}| \geq 1$ into $P'$.

Example:

$$S \rightarrow Ab$$
$$A \rightarrow BCB \mid Aa$$
$$B \rightarrow b \mid \lambda$$
$$C \rightarrow cC \mid \lambda$$
**Definition** Unit Production

\[ A \rightarrow B \]

where \( A, B \in V \).

**Consider removing unit productions:**

Suppose we have

\[ A \rightarrow B \]
\[ B \rightarrow a | ab \]

But what if we have

\[ A \rightarrow B \]
\[ B \rightarrow C \]
\[ C \rightarrow A \]

**Theorem** (Remove unit productions) Let \( G=(V,T,S,P) \) be a CFG without \( \lambda \)-productions. Then \( \exists \) CFG \( G'=(V',T',S,P') \) that does not have any unit-productions and \( L(G)=L(G') \).

**To Remove Unit Productions:**

1. Find for each \( A, \) all \( B \) s.t. \( A \Rightarrow B \) (Draw a dependency graph)
2. Construct \( G'=(V',T',S,P') \) by
   (a) Put all non-unit productions in \( P' \)
   (b) For all \( A \Rightarrow B \) s.t. \( B \rightarrow y_1 | y_2 | \ldots | y_n \in P' \), put \( A \rightarrow y_1 | y_2 | \ldots | y_n \in P' \)
Example:

S → AB  
A → B  
B → C | Bb  
C → A | c | Da  
D → A

**Theorem** Let L be a CFL that does not contain λ. Then ∃ a CFG for L that does not have any useless productions, λ-productions, or unit-productions.

**Proof**

1. Remove λ-productions
2. Remove unit-productions
3. Remove useless productions

Note order is very important. Removing λ-productions can create unit-productions! QED.
**Definition:** A CFG is in Chomsky Normal Form (CNF) if all productions are of the form

\[ A \rightarrow BC \quad \text{or} \quad A \rightarrow a \]

where \( A, B, C \in V \) and \( a \in T \).

**Theorem:** Any CFG \( G \) with \( \lambda \) not in \( L(G) \) has an equivalent grammar in CNF.

**Proof:**

1. Remove \( \lambda \)-productions, unit productions, and useless productions.
2. For every rhs of length > 1, replace each terminal \( x_i \) by a new variable \( C_j \) and add the production \( C_j \rightarrow x_i \).
3. Replace every rhs of length > 2 by a series of productions, each with rhs of length 2. QED.

**Example:**

\[
\begin{align*}
S & \rightarrow CBcd \\
B & \rightarrow b \\
C & \rightarrow Cc | e
\end{align*}
\]
**Definition:** A CFG is in Greibach normal form (GNF) if all productions have the form

\[ A \rightarrow ax \]

where \( a \in T \) and \( x \in V^* \)

**Theorem** For every CFG \( G \) with \( \lambda \) not in \( L(G) \), \( \exists \) a grammar in GNF.

**Proof:**

1. Rewrite grammar in CNF.
2. Relabel Variables \( A_1, A_2, \ldots A_n \)
3. Eliminate left recursion and use substitution to get all productions into the form:

\[
\begin{align*}
A_i & \rightarrow A_jx_j, \ j > i \\
Z_i & \rightarrow A_jx_j, \ j \leq n \\
A_i & \rightarrow ax_i
\end{align*}
\]

where \( a \in T \), \( x_i \in V^* \), and \( Z_i \) are new variables introduced for left recursion.

4. All productions with \( A_n \) are in the correct form, \( A_n \rightarrow ax_n \). Use these productions as substitutions to get \( A_{n-1} \) productions in the correct form. Repeat with \( A_{n-2}, A_{n-3}, \) etc until all productions are in the correct form.