

**UMB CS420**

# Polynomial Time (P)

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

$O(1) = O(\text{yeah})$   
 $O(\log n) = O(\text{nice})$   
 $O(n) = O(k)$   
 $O(n^2) = O(\text{my})$   
 $O(2^n) = O(\text{no})$   
 $O(n!) = O(\text{mg})$   
 $O(n^n) = O(\text{sh*t!})$

# *Announcements*

- HW 9 in
  - Mapping Reducibility and Unrecognizability
  - ~~Due Tues 4/19 11:59pm EST~~
- HW 10 out
  - Time Complexity and Poly time
  - Due Tues 4/26 11:59pm EST

# Last Time: Time Complexity

Running Time / Time Complexity is a property of decider TMs (algorithms)

Let  $M$  be a deterministic Turing machine that halts on all inputs. The *running time* or *time complexity* of  $M$  is the function  $f: \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$ , where  $f(n)$  is the maximum number of steps that  $M$  uses on any input of length  $n$ . If  $f(n)$  is the running time of  $M$ , we say that  $M$  runs in time  $f(n)$  and that  $M$  is an  $f(n)$  time Turing machine. Customarily we use  $n$  to represent the length of the input.

Depends on size of input

Worst case

# Last Time: Time Complexity Classes

Big- $O$  = asymptotic upper bound,  
i.e., “only care about **large  $n$** ”

Let  $t: \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^+$  be a function. Define the *time complexity class*,  $\mathbf{TIME}(t(n))$ , to be the collection of all languages that are decidable by an  $O(t(n))$  time Turing machine.

Remember:

- TMs have a **time complexity** (i.e., a running time),
- languages are in a **time complexity class**

The **time complexity class** of a language is determined by the **time complexity** (running time) of its deciding TM

A language can have multiple deciding TMs, so could be in multiple time complexity classes

# The Polynomial Time Complexity Class (**P**)

**P** is the class of languages that are decidable in polynomial time on a deterministic single-tape Turing machine. In other words,

$$P = \bigcup_k \text{TIME}(n^k).$$

- Corresponds to “realistically” solvable problems:
  - Problems in **P**
    - = “solvable” or “tractable”
  - Problems outside **P**
    - = “unsolvable” or “intractable”

# “Unsolvable” Problems



- **Unsolvable** problems (those outside  $\mathbf{P}$ ):
  - usually only have “**brute force**” solutions
  - i.e., “try all possible inputs”
  - “unsolvable” applies only to large  $n$

## Brute-force attack

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In [cryptography](#), a **brute-force attack** consists of an attacker submitting many [passwords](#) or [passphrases](#) with the hope of eventually guessing a combination correctly. The attacker systematically checks all possible passwords and passphrases until the correct one is found. Alternatively, the attacker can attempt to guess the [key](#) which is typically created from the password using a [key derivation function](#). This is known as an [exhaustive key search](#).

Amount of Time to Crack Passwords	
“abcdefg” 7 characters	🕒 .29 milliseconds
“abcdefgh” 8 characters	🕒 5 hours
“abcdefghi” 9 characters	🗓️ 5 days
“abcdefghij” 10 characters	🗓️ 4 months
“abcdefghijk” 11 characters	🗓️ 1 decade
“abcdefghijkl” 12 characters	🗓️ 2 centuries

today

→ How to prove something is “solvable”?

How to prove something is “unsolvable”?

# 3 Problems in **P**

- A Graph Problem:

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

- A Number Problem:

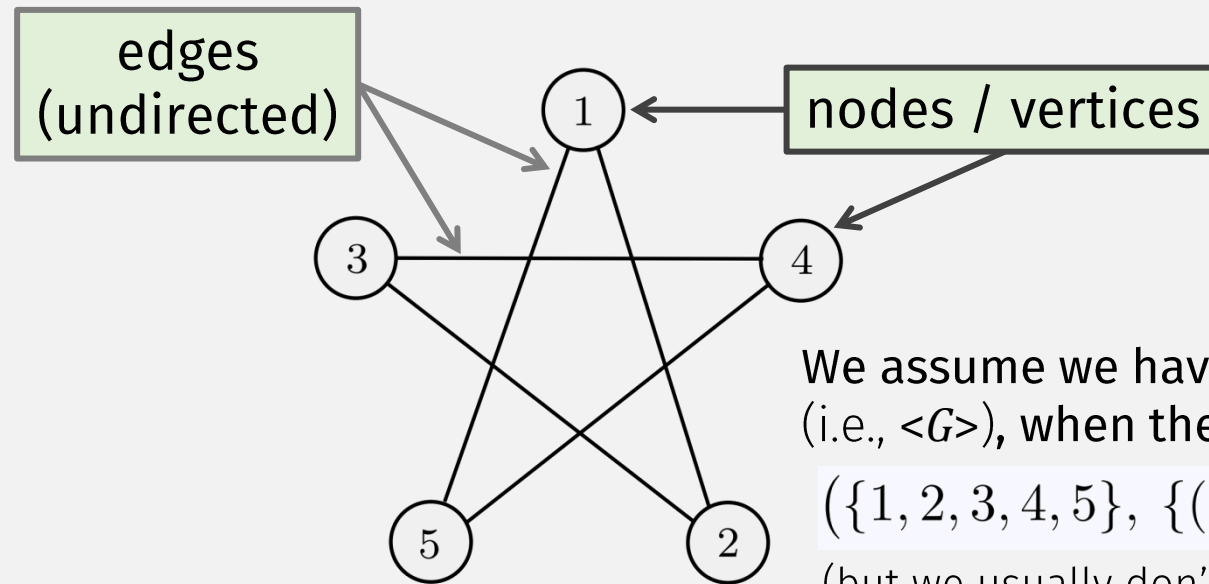
$RELPRIME = \{\langle x, y \rangle \mid x \text{ and } y \text{ are relatively prime}\}$

- A CFL Problem:

Every context-free language is a member of P

- To prove that a language is “solvable”, i.e., in **P** ...
  - ... construct a **polynomial** time algorithm deciding the language
- (These may also have **nonpolynomial**, i.e., brute force, algorithms)
  - Check all possible ... paths/numbers/strings ...

# Interlude: Graphs (see Sipser Chapter 0)



We assume we have *some string encoding of a graph* (i.e.,  $\langle G \rangle$ ), when they are args to TMs, e.g.:

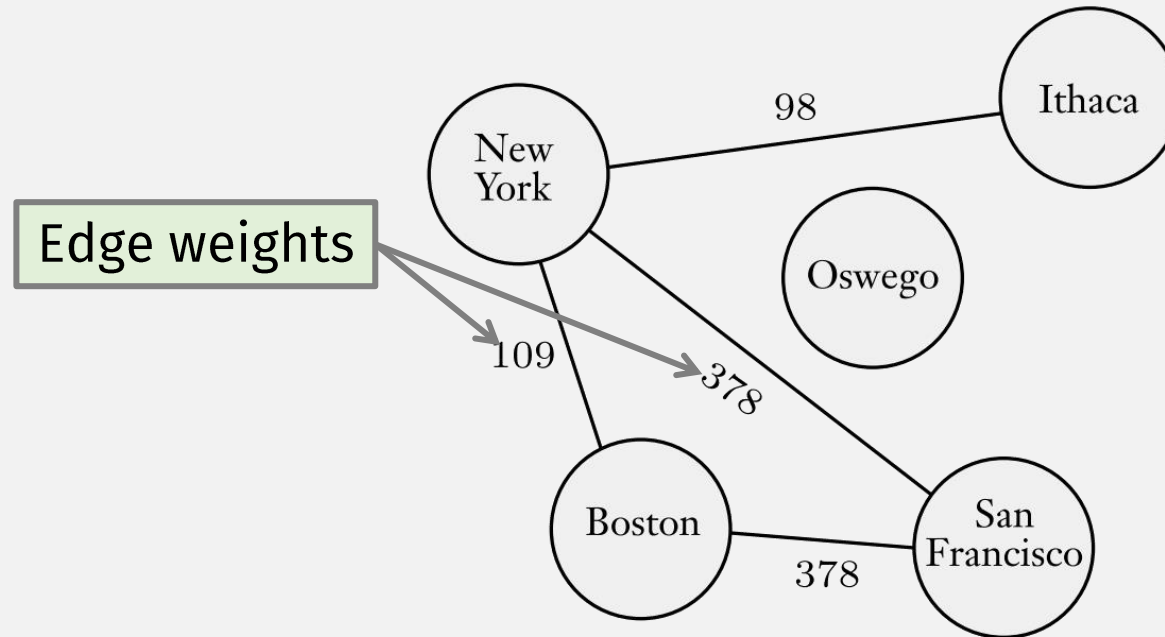
$(\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}, \{(1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 4), (4, 5), (5, 1)\})$

(but we usually don't care about the actual details)

- Edge defined by two nodes (order doesn't matter)
- Formally, a **graph** = a pair  $(V, E)$ 
  - Where  $V$  = a set of nodes,  $E$  = a set of edges

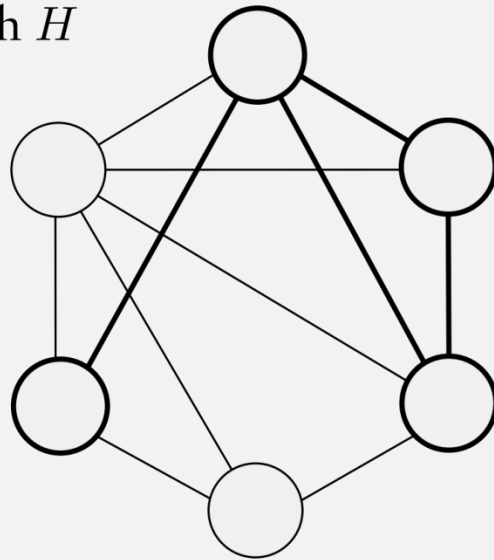


# Interlude: Weighted Graphs



# Interlude: Subgraphs

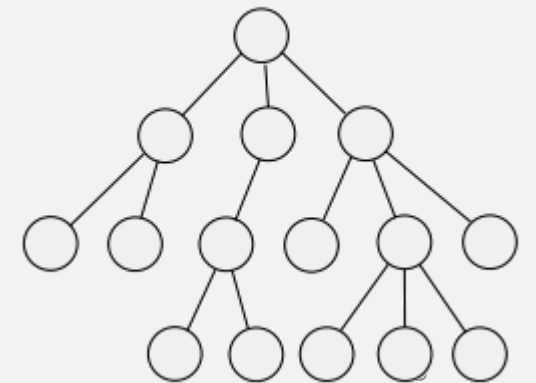
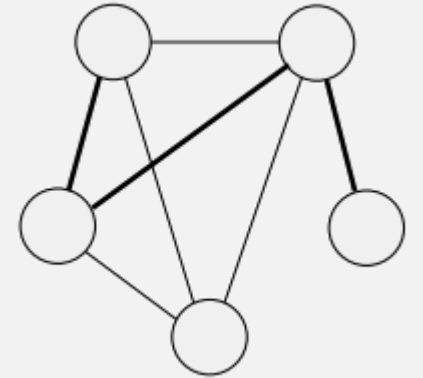
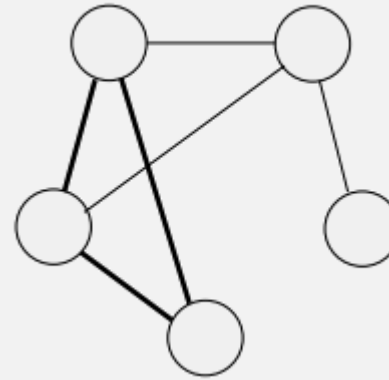
Graph  $H$



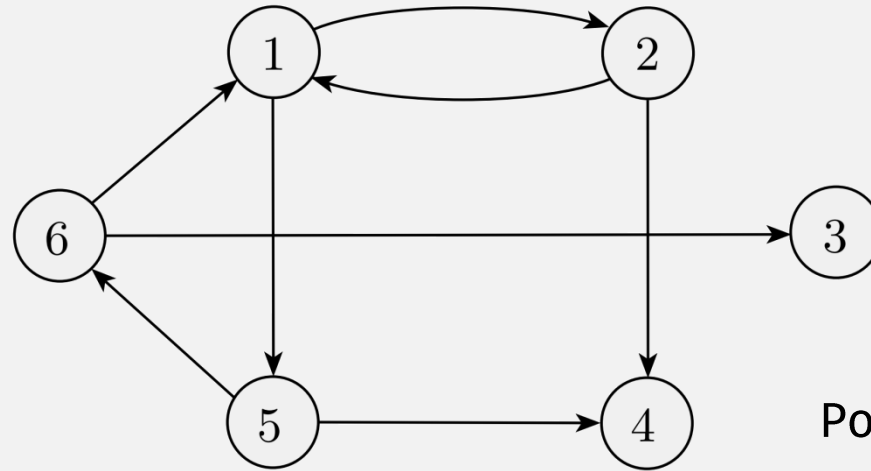
Subgraph  $G$   
shown darker

# Interlude: Paths and other Graph Things

- **Path**
  - A sequence of nodes connected by edges
- **Cycle**
  - A path that starts/ends at the same node
- **Connected graph**
  - Every two nodes has a path
- **Tree**
  - A connected graph with no cycles



# Interlude: Directed Graphs



Possible **string encoding** given to TMs:

$(\{1,2,3,4,5,6\}, \{(1,2), (1,5), (2,1), (2,4), (5,4), (5,6), (6,1), (6,3)\})$

- **Directed graph** =  $(V, E)$ 
  - $V$  = set of nodes,  $E$  = set of edges
- An **edge** is a pair of nodes  $(u,v)$ , order now matters
  - $u$  = “from” node,  $v$  = “to” node
- “degree” of a node: number of edges connected to the node
  - Nodes in a directed graph have both indegree and outdegree

Each pair of nodes  
included twice

# Interlude: Graph Encodings

$(\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}, \{(1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 4), (4, 5), (5, 1)\})$

- For graph algorithms, “length of input”  $n$  usually = # of vertices
  - (Not number of chars in the encoding)
- So given graph  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $n = |V|$
- Max edges?
  - =  $O(|V|^2) = O(n^2)$
- So if a set of graphs (call it lang  $L$ ) is decided by a TM where
  - # steps of the TM = **polynomial** in the # of vertices
  - Or **polynomial** in the # of edges
- Then  $L$  is in **P**

# 3 Problems in **P**

- A Graph Problem:

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

- A Number Problem:

$RELPRIME = \{\langle x, y \rangle \mid x \text{ and } y \text{ are relatively prime}\}$

- A CFL Problem:

Every context-free language is a member of P

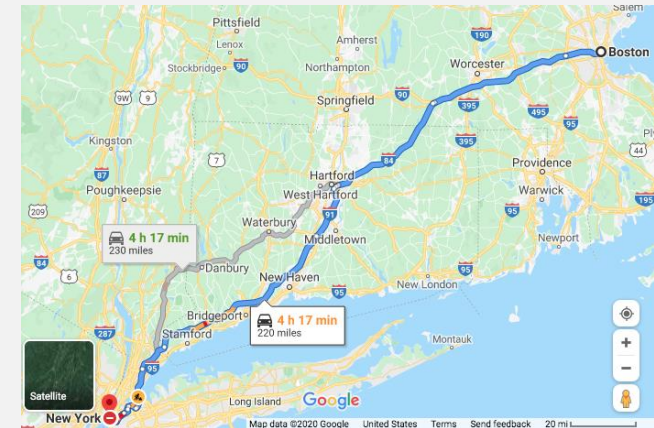
$P$  is the class of languages that are decidable in polynomial time on a deterministic single-tape Turing machine. In other words,

$$P = \bigcup_k \text{TIME}(n^k).$$

# A Graph Theorem: $PATH \in P$

$PATH = \{ \langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t \}$

(A **path** is a sequence of nodes connected by edges)



- To prove that a language is in  $P$  ...
- ... we must construct a polynomial time algorithm deciding the lang
- A non-polynomial (i.e., "brute force") algorithm:
  - check all possible paths,
  - see if any connect  $s$  to  $t$
  - If  $n = \#$  vertices, then  $\#$  paths  $\approx n^n$

# A Graph Theorem: $PATH \in P$

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

**PROOF** A polynomial time algorithm  $M$  for  $PATH$  operates as follows.

$M =$  “On input  $\langle G, s, t \rangle$ , where  $G$  is a directed graph with nodes  $s$  and  $t$ :

1. Place a mark on node  $s$ .
2. Repeat the following until no additional nodes are marked:
3. Scan all the edges of  $G$ . If an edge  $(a, b)$  is found going from a marked node  $a$  to an unmarked node  $b$ , mark node  $b$ .
4. If  $t$  is marked, *accept*. Otherwise, *reject*.”

# of steps (worst case) ( $n = \#$  nodes):

➤ Line 1: **1** step



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# of steps (worst case) ( $n = \#$  nodes):

- Line 1: **1 step**
- Lines 2-3 (loop):
  - Steps/iteration (line 3): max # steps = max # edges =  $O(n^2)$

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  - Total:  $O(n^3)$

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- Line 1: **1 step**
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  - Total:  $O(n^3)$
- Line 4: **1 step**

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$$O(n^3)$$

(Breadth-first search)

# of steps (worst case) ( $n = \#$  nodes):

- Line 1: 1 step
  - Lines 2-3 (loop):
    - Steps/iteration (line 3): max # steps = max # edges =  $O(n^2)$
    - # iterations (line 2): loop runs at most  $n$  times
    - Total:  $O(n^3)$
  - Line 4: 1 step
- Total =  $1 + 1 + O(n^3) = O(n^3)$

# 3 Problems in **P**

✓ • A Graph Problem:

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

• A Number Problem:

$RELPRIME = \{\langle x, y \rangle \mid x \text{ and } y \text{ are relatively prime}\}$

• A CFL Problem:

Every context-free language is a member of P

# A Number Theorem: $RELPRIME \in P$

$$RELPRIME = \{\langle x, y \rangle \mid x \text{ and } y \text{ are relatively prime}\}$$

- Two numbers are **relatively prime**: if their  $\text{gcd} = 1$ 
  - $\text{gcd}(x, y)$  = largest number that divides both  $x$  and  $y$
  - E.g.,  $\text{gcd}(8, 12) = 4$
- Brute force (**exponential**) algorithm deciding  $RELPRIME$ :
  - Try all of numbers (up to  $x$  or  $y$ ), see if it can divide both numbers
  - Q: Why is this exponential?
  - HINT: What is a typical “representation” of numbers?
  - A: binary numbers
  - (if  $x = 2^n$ , then trying  $x$  numbers is exponential in  $n$ , the number of digits)
- A gcd algorithm that runs in **polynomial** time:
  - Euclid’s algorithm

# A GCD Algorithm for: $RELPRIME \in P$

$RELPRIME = \{\langle x, y \rangle \mid x \text{ and } y \text{ are relatively prime}\}$

Modulo  
(i.e., remainder)  
cuts  $x$  (at least) in half

$$15 \bmod 8 = 7$$
$$17 \bmod 8 = 1$$

Cutting  $x$  in half  
every step requires:  
 $\log x$  steps

The Euclidean algorithm  $E$  is as follows.

$E =$  “On input  $\langle x, y \rangle$ , where  $x$  and  $y$  are natural numbers in binary:

1. Repeat until  $y = 0$ :
2.   Assign  $x \leftarrow x \bmod y$ .
3.   Exchange  $x$  and  $y$ .
4. Output  $x$ .”

$O(n)$

Each number is  
cut in half every  
*other* iteration

Total run time (assume  $x > y$ ):  $2 \log x = 2 \log 2^n = O(n)$ ,  
where  $n =$  number of binary digits in (ie length of)  $x$



# 3 Problems in **P**

- ✓ • A Graph Problem:

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- ✓ • A Number Problem:

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- A CFL Problem:

Every context-free language is a member of P

# Review: A Decider for Any CFL

Given any CFL  $L$ , with CFG  $G$ , the following decider  $M_G$  decides  $L$ :

$M_G =$  “On input  $w$ :

1. Run TM  $S$  on input  $\langle G, w \rangle$ .
2. If this machine accepts, *accept*; if it rejects, *reject*.”

$S$  is a decider for:  $A_{CFG} = \{\langle G, w \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG that generates string } w\}$

$S =$  “On input  $\langle G, w \rangle$ , where  $G$  is a CFG and  $w$  is a string:

1. Convert  $G$  to an equivalent grammar in Chomsky normal form.
2. List all derivations with  $2n - 1$  steps, where  $n$  is the length of  $w$ ; except if  $n = 0$ , then instead list all derivations with one step.
3. If any of these derivations generate  $w$ , *accept*; if not, *reject*.”

$M_G$  is a decider,  
bc  $S$  is a decider

$M_G$  accepts  
all  $w \in L$ , for  
any CFL  $L$

Therefore,  
every CFL is  
decidable

But, is every  
CFL decidable  
in poly time?

# A Decider for Any CFL: Running Time

Given any CFL  $L$ , with CFG  $G$ , the following decider  $M_G$  decides  $L$ :

$M_G =$  “On input  $w$ :

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3. If any of these derivations generate  $w$ , *accept*; if not, *reject*.”

This algorithm runs in exponential time

Worst case:  
 $|R|^{2n-1}$  steps =  $O(2^n)$   
( $R$  = set of rules)

A CFL Theorem: Every context-free language is a member of P

- Given a CFL, we must construct a decider for it ...
- ... that runs in **polynomial** time

# Dynamic Programming

- Keep track of partial solutions, and re-use them
  - Start with smallest and build up
- For CFG problem, instead of re-generating entire string ...
  - ... keep track of substrings generated by each variable

$S =$  “On input  $\langle G, w \rangle$ , where  $G$  is a CFG and  $w$  is a string:

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3. If any of these derivations generate  $w$ , *accept*; if not, *reject*.”

This duplicates a lot of work because many strings might have the same beginning derivation steps

# CFL Dynamic Programming Example

- Chomsky Grammar  $G$ :

- $S \rightarrow AB \mid BC$
- $A \rightarrow BA \mid a$
- $B \rightarrow CC \mid b$
- $C \rightarrow AB \mid a$

- Example string: **baaba**

- Store every partial string and their generating variables in a table

Substring end char

	b	a	a	b	a
b					
a					
a					
b					
a					

Substring start char

# CFL Dynamic Programming Example

- Chomsky Grammar  $G$ :
  - $S \rightarrow AB \mid BC$
  - $A \rightarrow BA \mid a$
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  - $C \rightarrow AB \mid a$
- Example string: **baaba**
- Store every partial string and their generating variables in a table

Substring end char

	b	a	a	b	a
b	vars generating "b"	vars for "ba"	vars for "baa"	...	
a		vars for "a"	vars for "aa"	vars for "aab"	
a			...		
b					
a					

Substring start char

# CFL Dynamic Programming Example

- Chomsky Grammar  $G$ :

- $S \rightarrow AB \mid BC$
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- $C \rightarrow AB \mid a$

- Example string: **baaba**

- Store every partial string and their generating variables in a table

Algo:

- For each single char  $c$  and var  $A$ :
  - If  $A \rightarrow c$  is a rule, add  $A$  to table

Substring end char

	b	a	b	a	b	a
b	vars generating "b"	vars for "ba"	vars for "baa"	...		
a		vars for "a"	vars for "aa"	vars for "aab"		
a			...			
b						
a						

Substring start char



# CFL Dynamic Programming Example

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Substring end char

	b	a	a	b	a
b	B				
a		A,C			
a			A,C		
b				B	
a					A,C <sub>6</sub>

Substring start char

# CFL Dynamic Programming Example

- Chomsky Grammar  $G$ :

- $S \rightarrow AB \mid BC$
- $A \rightarrow BA \mid a$
- $B \rightarrow CC \mid b$
- $C \rightarrow AB \mid a$

- Example string: **baaba**

- Store every partial string and their generating variables in a table

Algo:

- For each single char  $c$  and var  $A$ :
  - If  $A \rightarrow c$  is a rule, add  $A$  to table
- For each substring  $s$  ( $\text{len} > 1$ ):
  - For each split of substring  $s$  into  $x,y$ :
    - For each rule of shape  $A \rightarrow BC$ :
      - Use table to check if  $B$  generates  $x$  and  $C$  generates  $y$

Substring end char

	b	a	a	b	a
b	B				
a		A,C			
a			A,C		
b				B	
a					A,C <sub>7</sub>

Substring start char

# CFL Dynamic Programming Example

- Chomsky Grammar  $G$ :

- $S \rightarrow AB \mid BC$
- $A \rightarrow BA \mid a$
- $B \rightarrow CC \mid b$
- $C \rightarrow AB \mid a$

- Example string: **baaba**

- Store every partial string and their generating

Substring end char

	b	a	a
b	B		
a		A,C	
a			A,C
b			
a			

Substring start char

Algo:

- For each single char  $c$  and var  $A$ :
  - If  $A \rightarrow c$  is a rule, add  $A$  to table
- For each substring  $s$ :
  - For each split of substring  $s$  into  $x,y$ :
    - For each rule of shape  $A \rightarrow BC$ :
      - use table to check if  $B$

For substring "ba", split into "b" and "a":

- For rule  $S \rightarrow AB$ 
  - Does  $A$  generate "b" and  $B$  generate "a"?
    - NO
- For rule  $S \rightarrow BC$ 
  - Does  $B$  generate "b" and  $C$  generate "a"?
    - YES
- For rule  $A \rightarrow BA$ 
  - Does  $B$  generate "b" and  $A$  generate "a"?
    - YES
- For rule  $B \rightarrow CC$ 
  - Does  $C$  generate "b" and  $C$  generate "a"?
    - NO
- For rule  $C \rightarrow AB$ 
  - Does  $A$  generate "b" and  $B$  generate "a"?
    - NO

# CFL Dynamic Programming Example

- Chomsky Grammar  $G$ :

- $S \rightarrow AB \mid BC$
- $A \rightarrow BA \mid a$
- $B \rightarrow CC \mid b$
- $C \rightarrow AB \mid a$

- Example string: **baaba**

- Store every partial string and their generating

Algo:

- For each single char  $c$  and var  $A$ :
  - If  $A \rightarrow c$  is a rule, add  $A$  to table
- For each substring  $s$ :
  - For each split of substring  $s$  into  $x,y$ :
    - For each rule of shape  $A \rightarrow BC$ :
      - use table to check if  $B$

Substring end char

	b	a	a
b	B	S,A	
a		A,C	
a			A,C
b			
a			

For substring "ba", split into "b" and "a":

- For rule  $S \rightarrow AB$ 
  - Does  $A$  generate "b" and  $B$  generate "a"?
    - NO
- For rule  $S \rightarrow BC$ 
  - Does  $B$  generate "b" and  $C$  generate "a"?
    - YES
- For rule  $A \rightarrow BA$ 
  - Does  $B$  generate "b" and  $A$  generate "a"?
    - YES
- For rule  $B \rightarrow CC$ 
  - Does  $C$  generate "b" and  $C$  generate "a"?
    - NO
- For rule  $C \rightarrow AB$ 
  - Does  $A$  generate "b" and  $B$  generate "a"?
    - NO

Substring start char

# CFL Dynamic Programming Example

- Chomsky Grammar  $G$ :

- $S \rightarrow AB \mid BC$
- $A \rightarrow BA \mid a$
- $B \rightarrow CC \mid b$
- $C \rightarrow AB \mid a$

- Example string: **baaba**

- Store every partial string and their generating variables in a table

Algo:

- For each single char  $c$  and var  $A$ :
  - If  $A \rightarrow c$  is a rule, add  $A$  to table
- For each substring  $s$ :
  - For each split of substring  $s$  into  $x,y$ :
    - For each rule of shape  $A \rightarrow BC$ :
      - Use table to check if  $B$  generates  $x$  and  $C$  generates  $y$

For each char, var ...

For each substring, split, rule ...

Substring end char

	b	a	a	b	a
b	B	S,A			S,A,C
a		A,C	B	B	S,A,C
a			A,C	S,C	B
b				B	S,A
a					A,C

If S is here, accept

→

Substring start char

# A CFG Theorem: Every context-free language is a member of P

$D =$  “On input  $w = w_1 \cdots w_n$ :

1. For  $w = \varepsilon$ , if  $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$  is a rule, *accept*; else, *reject*.  $\llbracket w = \varepsilon$  case  $\rrbracket$
2. For  $i = 1$  to  $n$ :  $O(n)$   $\llbracket$  examine each substring of length 1  $\rrbracket$
3. For each variable  $A$ :  $\#vars$
4. Test whether  $A \rightarrow b$  is a rule, where  $b = w_i$ .  $\#vars * n = O(n)$
5. If so, place  $A$  in  $table(i, i)$ .
6. For  $l = 2$  to  $n$ :  $O(n)$   $\llbracket l$  is the length of the substring  $\rrbracket$
7. For  $i = 1$  to  $n - l + 1$ :  $O(n)$   $\llbracket i$  is the start position of the substring  $\rrbracket$
8. Let  $j = i + l - 1$ .  $\llbracket j$  is the end position of the substring  $\rrbracket$
9. For  $k = i$  to  $j - 1$ :  $O(n)$   $\llbracket k$  is the split position  $\rrbracket$
10. For each rule  $A \rightarrow BC$ :  $\#rules$
11. If  $table(i, k)$  contains  $B$  and  $table(k + 1, j)$  contains  $C$ , put  $A$  in  $table(i, j)$ .  $\#rules * O(n) * O(n) * O(n) = O(n^3)$
12. If  $S$  is in  $table(1, n)$ , *accept*; else, *reject*.

Total:  $O(n^3)$

(This is also known as the Earley parsing algorithm)

# Summary: 3 Problems in **P**

✓ • A Graph Problem:

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

✓ • A Number Problem:

$RELPRIME = \{\langle x, y \rangle \mid x \text{ and } y \text{ are relatively prime}\}$

✓ • A CFL Problem:

Every context-free language is a member of P

# **Check-in Quiz 4/20**

On gradescope