

# Automata Theory :: Properties of Context-Free Languages

Jörg Endrullis

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

# Basic Properties of Context-Free Languages

## Theorem

If  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are context-free, then also

$$L_1 \cup L_2$$

$$L_1 L_2$$

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- $L_1^R$ : Reverse all rules ( $x \rightarrow y$  becomes  $x^R \rightarrow y^R$ ).



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Namely, we have:

$$L_1 \cap L_2 = \overline{\overline{L_1} \cup \overline{L_2}}$$

$$\overline{L_1} = \Sigma^* \setminus L_1$$

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## Construction

Let

- $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, z, F)$  be an NPDA accepting  $L_1$ , and
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Then  $L(\hat{M}) = L(M) \cap L(N)$ .



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Why does the construction not work for two NPDA's?  
(instead of an NPDA and a DFA)

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$L_2 \setminus L_1$  is **not** always context-free. Namely

$$\overline{L_1} = \Sigma^* \setminus L_1$$

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Contradiction. Thus  $L$  is not context-free.

Decidability

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Given context-free grammar  $G$  and  $H$ .

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**Surprisingly** all other questions are undecidable.