

Find a context-free grammar that generates the language $\{a^n b^m \mid n \geq 0 \wedge m = n + 1\}$.

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow aSb \\ S &\longrightarrow b \end{aligned}$$

Discussion: This language consists of strings of as followed by bs , with one more b than a .

Let's start with a grammar that produces strings with as followed by bs where there are the same number of as and bs .

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow aSb \\ S &\longrightarrow \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Since we only want one extra b , it should be added at the end.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow aSb \\ S &\longrightarrow b \end{aligned}$$

This no longer allows ϵ , but that's OK — there can be 0 as , but one more b than a means there has to be at least 1 b .

Find a context-free grammar that generates the language $\{a^n b^m c^n \mid n, m \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow aSc \\ S &\longrightarrow B \\ B &\longrightarrow bB \\ B &\longrightarrow \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Discussion: This language consists of strings of as followed by bs followed by cs , with the same number of as and cs .

Let's start with a grammar that produces strings with as followed by cs where there are the same number of as and cs .

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow aSc \\ S &\longrightarrow \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

To generate a string of bs

$$\begin{aligned} B &\longrightarrow bB \\ B &\longrightarrow \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

To switch from replacing S s (and generating as and cs) to replace B (and generating bs), add a rule $S \longrightarrow B$.

Putting these all together:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow aSc \\ S &\longrightarrow \epsilon \\ S &\longrightarrow B \\ B &\longrightarrow bB \\ B &\longrightarrow \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Check that this works as desired. $S \longrightarrow \epsilon$ allows ϵ , which is in the language. (Also $S \implies B \implies \epsilon$, so $S \longrightarrow \epsilon$ isn't actually needed.) ac can be generated, as can abc .
