

# *Pushdown Automata*

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transparencies made for a course at the

International PhD School  
in Formal Languages and Applications  
Rovira i Virgili University  
Tarragona, Spain

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<http://www.liacs.nl/~hoogeboo/praatjes/tarragona/>

- I. The Model  
Introduction & Motivation
- II. Pushdown Automata and  
Context-Free Languages
- III. Determinism
- IV. Indexed Grammars,  
Stack Automata\*
- V. Closure and Determinism.  
Stack Languages and Predicting  
Machines
- VI. Pushdown as Storage.  
Abstract Families of Automata
- VII. Basic Parsing.  
Building PDA for Grammars\*
- VIII. Famous Automata  
(Examples / Exercises)

\* very unfinished

### Handbooks

Autebert, Berstel & Boasson. Context-Free Languages and Pushdown Automata. *Handbook of Formal Languages* (Rozenberg & Salomaa, eds.) 1997

Berstel & Boasson. Context-Free Languages. *Handbook of Theoretical Computer Science* (van Leeuwen, ed.) 1990.

Hendrik Jan Hoogeboom & Joost Engelfriet, Pushdown Automata. *Formal Languages and Applications* (Martín-Vide, Mitrană & Păun, eds.), 2004. [[this course](#)]

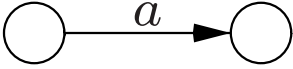
### Textbooks

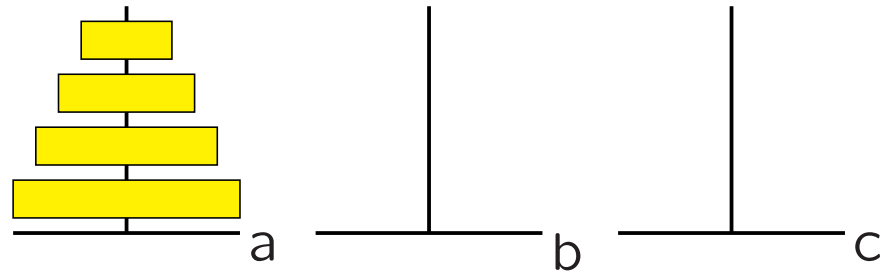
Harrison. *Introduction to Formal Language Theory*. Addison-Wesley, 1978.

Hopcroft & Ullman. *Introduction to Automata Theory, Languages, and Computation*, 2nd edition Addison-Wesley, 1979.

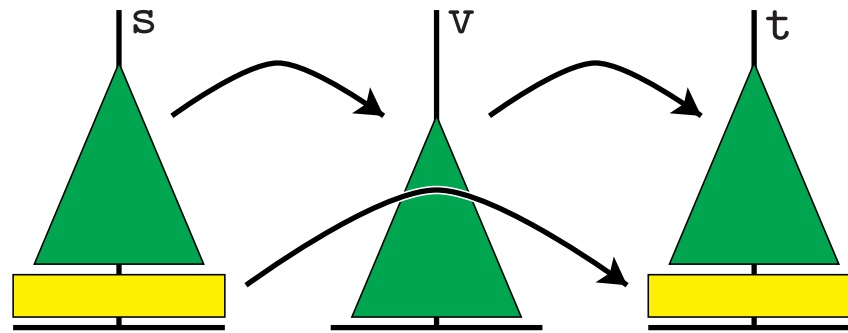
The Model

Introduction &  
Motivation

	grammar	automaton
3	right-linear $A \rightarrow aB$	regular finite state 
2	$A \rightarrow \alpha$	context-free pushdown (+lifo stack)
1	$(\beta_l, A, \beta_r) \rightarrow \alpha$ $\alpha \rightarrow \beta \quad  \beta  \geq  \alpha $ monotone	context-sensitive linear bounded
0	$\alpha \rightarrow \beta$	recursively enumerable turing machine

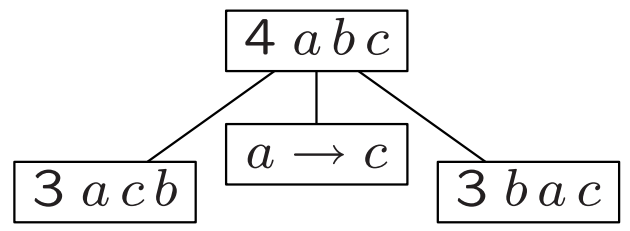


move from  $a$  to  $c$   
 – respecting sizes  
 – one disk at a time

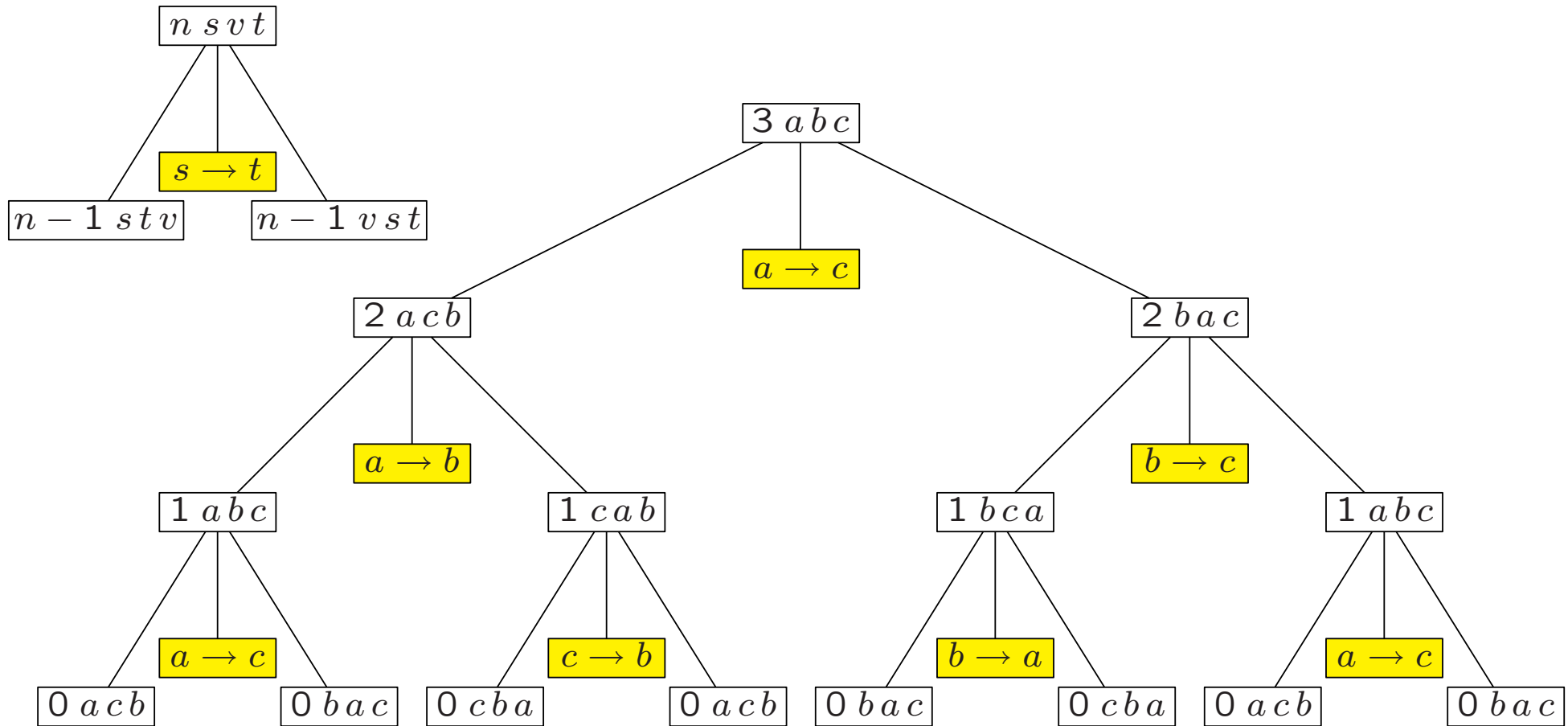


move(  $n$ , source, via, target ) :-  $n \geq 1$

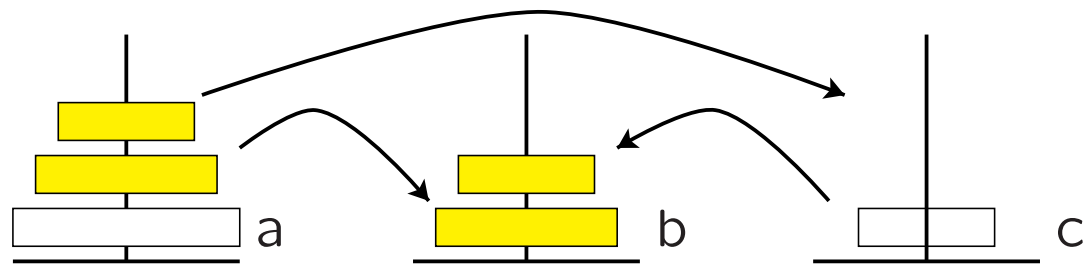
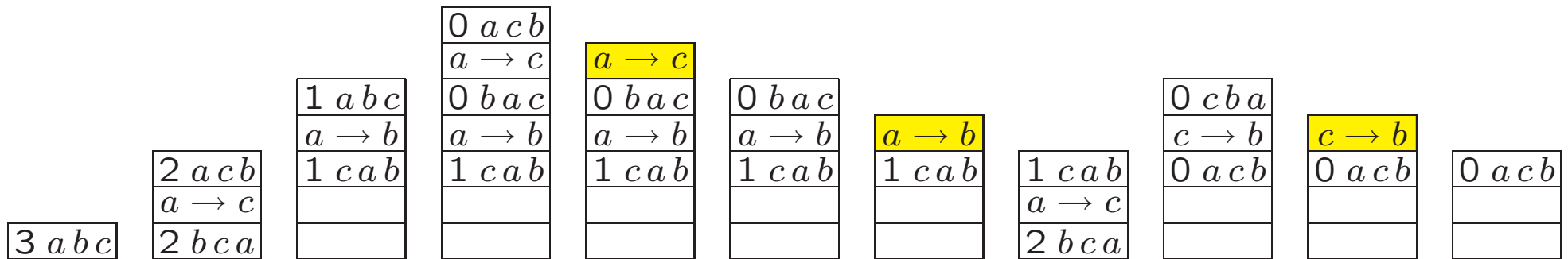
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{move}( n - 1, \text{source}, \text{target}, \text{via} ) \\ \text{source} \xrightarrow{n} \text{target} \\ \text{move}( n - 1, \text{via}, \text{source}, \text{target} ) \end{array} \right.$$



*recursion*, context-free grammar (-like)

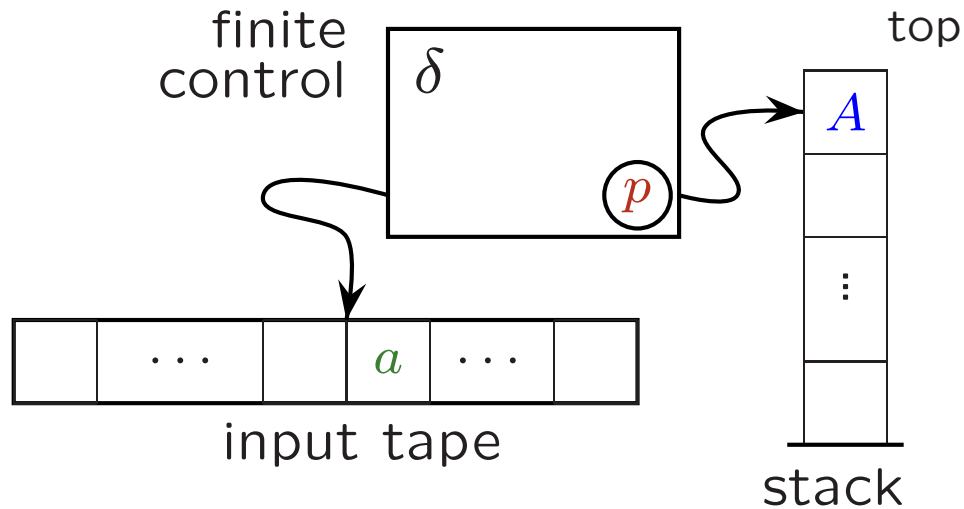


$\text{move}( n, \text{source}, \text{via}, \text{target} ) :-$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{move}( n - 1, \text{source}, \text{target}, \text{via} ) \\ \text{source} \xrightarrow{n} \text{target} \\ \text{move}( n - 1, \text{via}, \text{source}, \text{target} ) \end{array} \right.$	$n \geq 1$
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$\text{move}( 2, a, c, b ) = a \rightarrow c; a \rightarrow b; c \rightarrow b;$





formally 7-tuple

$$A = (Q, \Delta, \Gamma, \delta, q_{in}, Z_{in}, F)$$

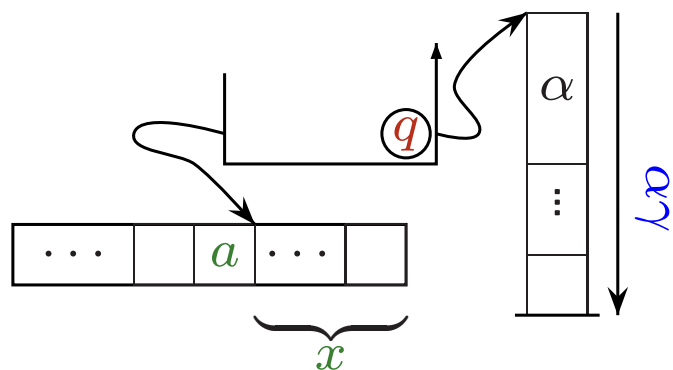
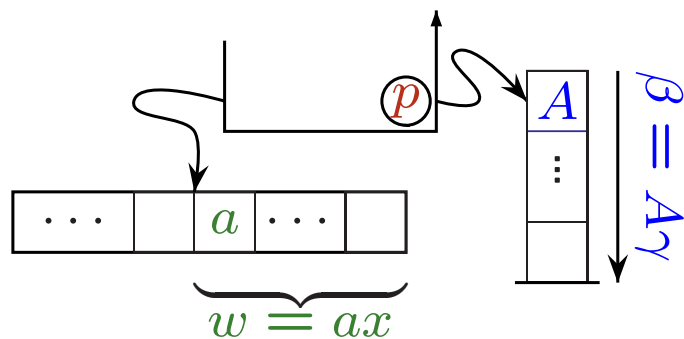
$Q$	states	$p, q$
$q_{in} \in Q$	initial state	
$F \subseteq Q$	final states	
$\Delta$	input alphabet	$a, b \quad w, x$
$\Gamma$	stack alphabet	$A, B \quad \alpha$
$Z_{in} \in \Gamma$	initial stack symbol	

transition relation (finite)

$$\delta \subseteq Q \times (\Delta \cup \{\lambda\}) \times \Gamma \times Q \times \Gamma^*$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} \text{from} & & & \text{to} & & \\ \hline p & a & A & q & \alpha & \\ \hline & \text{read} & \text{pop} & & \text{push} & \end{array} \right)$$

before                      after



$Q \times \Delta^* \times \Gamma^*$  instantaneous descriptions

$(p, w, \beta)$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} p \text{ state} \\ w \text{ input, unread part} \\ \beta \text{ stack, top-to-bottom} \end{array} \right.$

move (step)  $\vdash_{\mathcal{A}}$

$(p, ax, A\gamma) \vdash_{\mathcal{A}} (q, x, \alpha\gamma)$  iff

$(p, a, A, q, \alpha) \in \delta$ ,  $x \in \Delta^*$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma^*$

computation  $\vdash_{\mathcal{A}}^*$

$L(\mathcal{A})$  final state language

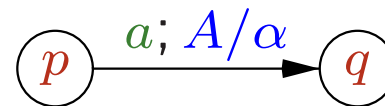
$\{ x \in \Delta^* \mid (q_{in}, x, A_{in}) \vdash_{\mathcal{A}}^* (q, \lambda, \gamma) \text{ for some } q \in F \text{ and } \gamma \in \Gamma^* \}$

$N(\mathcal{A})$  empty stack language

$\{ x \in \Delta^* \mid (q_{in}, x, A_{in}) \vdash_{\mathcal{A}}^* (q, \lambda, \lambda) \text{ for some } q \in Q \}$

general form  $(p, a, A, q, \alpha)$

$(p, a, A) \mapsto (q, \alpha)$

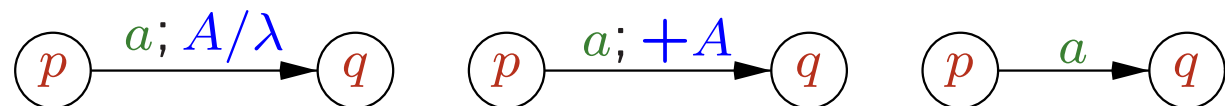


*intuitive*

*formalized as*

pop $A$	$(p, a, A, q, \lambda)$	$\alpha = \lambda$
push $A$	$(p, a, X, q, AX)$	for all $X \in \Gamma$
read $a$	$(p, a, X, q, X)$	for all $X \in \Gamma$

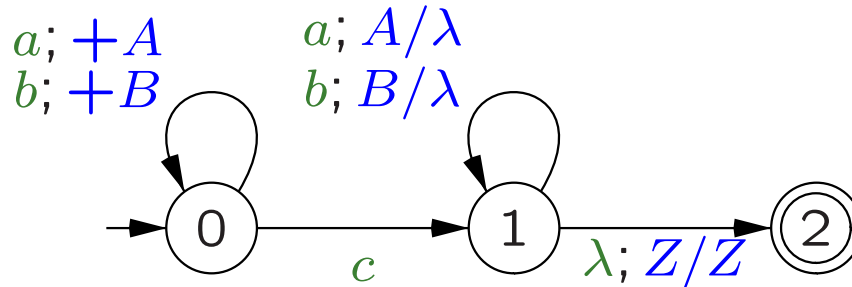
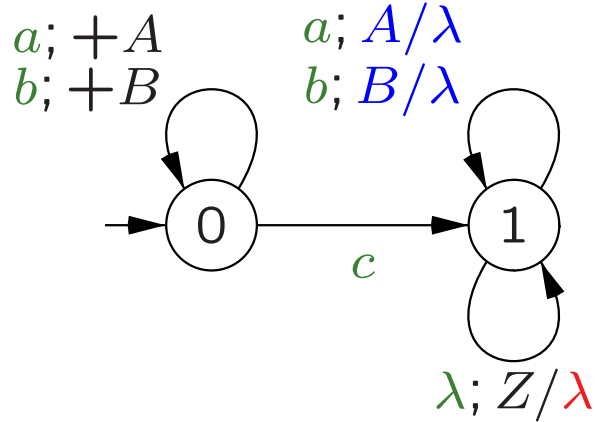
our convention



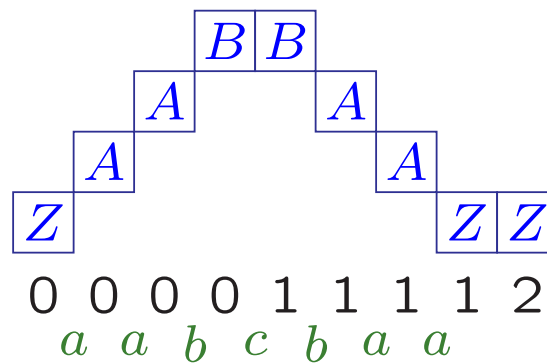
empty stack

$$N(\mathcal{A}_2) = L$$

$$L = \{ w c w^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^* \}$$



final state  
 $L(\mathcal{A}_1) = L$



- (0, aabcbaa, Z) ⊢
- (0, abcbaa, AZ) ⊢
- (0, bcbaa, AAZ) ⊢
- (0, cbaa, BAAZ) ⊢
- (1, baa, BAAZ) ⊢
- (1, aa, AAZ) ⊢
- (1, a, AZ) ⊢
- (1, λ, Z) ⊢
- (2, λ, Z) ⊢

$\delta$  consists of

$(0, a, Z, 0, AZ)$

$(0, a, A, 0, AA)$

$(0, a, B, 0, AB)$

$(0, b, Z, 0, BZ)$

$(0, b, A, 0, BA)$

$(0, b, B, 0, BB)$

$(0, c, Z, 1, Z)$

$(0, c, A, 1, A)$

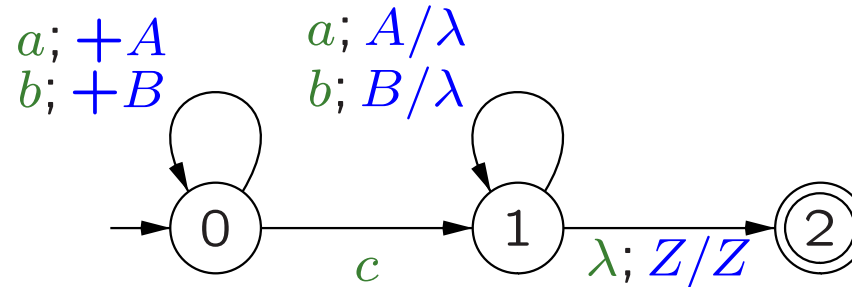
$(0, c, B, 1, B)$

$(1, a, A, 1, \lambda)$

$(1, b, B, 1, \lambda)$

$(1, \lambda, Z, 2, Z)$

$$L = \{ w c w^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^* \}$$



final state

$$L_f(\mathcal{A}_1) = L$$

$\mathcal{A} = (Q, \Delta, \Gamma, \delta, q_{in}, Z_{in}, F)$ , where

$$Q = \{0, 1, 2\}$$

$$\Delta = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$\Gamma = \{A, B, Z\}$$

$$q_{in} = 0$$

$$Z_{in} = Z$$

$$F = \{2\}$$

$$L = \{ w c w^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^* \}$$

single state :-      stack codes state

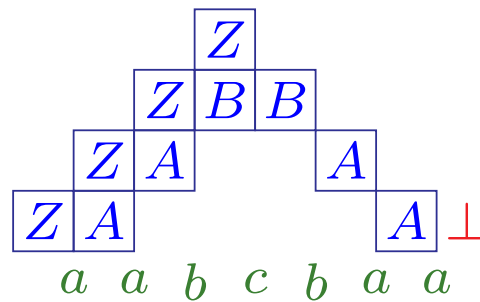
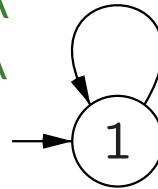
*a; Z/Z A*

*b; Z/Z B*

*c; Z/λ*

*a; A/λ*

*b; B/λ*

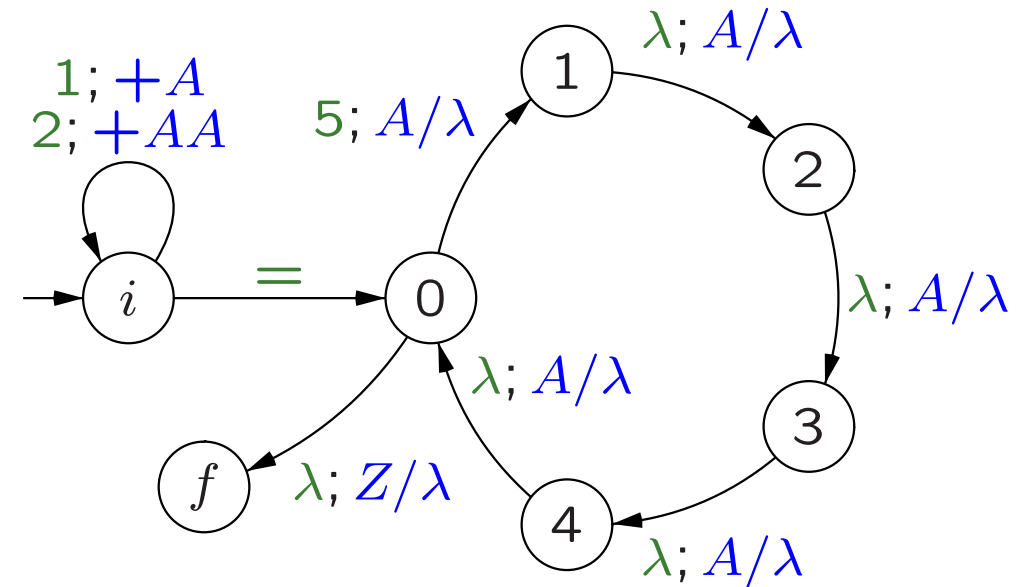


- (1, *aabcbaa*, *Z*) ⊢
- (1, *abcbaa*, *ZA*) ⊢
- (1, *bcbaa*, *ZAA*) ⊢
- (1, *cbaa*, *ZBAA*) ⊢
- (1, *baa*, *BAA*) ⊢
- (1, *aa*, *AA*) ⊢
- (1, *a*, *A*) ⊢
- (1, *λ*, *λ*) ⊢

① ② ⑤ alphabet  $\{1, 2, 5, =\}$

$$\{ x = y \mid x \in \{1, 2\}^*, y \in \{5\}^*, \#_1 x + 2\#_2 x = 5\#_5(y) \}$$

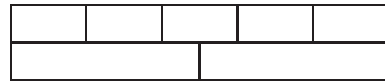
$\#_a x$  number of  $a$  occurrences in  $x$



212 = 5

22222 = 55

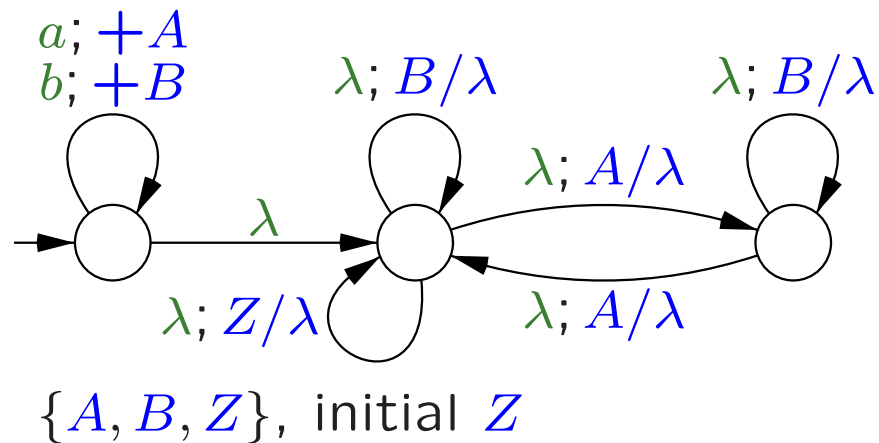
12(122)<sup>3</sup> = 5<sup>4</sup>



empty stack / final state  $f$

- ▷ context-free grammar?
- ▷ single state PDA?

- ★ completely read input
  - \* input+stack may block
  - \* infinite  $\lambda$ -computations!
- ★ no steps on empty stack
- ★ computations without reading
  - \* at the end to reach acceptance





cutting and pasting PDA computations

✚ input

$$(p, w, \alpha) \vdash^* (q, \lambda, \lambda)$$

iff

$$(p, wz, \alpha) \vdash^* (q, z, \lambda)$$

✚ stack

$$(p, w, \alpha) \vdash^* (q, \lambda, \lambda)$$

then

$$(p, w, \alpha\beta) \vdash^* (q, z, \beta)$$

$$(p, w, \alpha) \vdash^* (q, \lambda, \lambda)$$

iff

$$(p, w, \alpha\beta) \vdash^* (q, z, \beta)$$

and every stack is longer than  $\beta$ .

