# Relating Chomsky Normal Form and Greibach Normal Form by Exponential Transposition

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Chomsky and Greibach normal form CT 2011, Vancouver, July 22

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# Overview

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- At issue is the use of node-labeled trees in the theory of formal languages.

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### History: the man took the book

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Note the distinction between leaves and (capitalized) inner nodes.

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On the finite vocabulary (= alphabet)  $V_P$  of his phrase-structure grammar (= semi-Thue rewriting system F + axioms), Chomsky remarks In every interesting case there will be a terminal vocabulary  $V_T$  ( $V_T \subseteq V_P$ ) that exactly characterizes the terminal strings, in the sense that every terminal string is a string in  $V_T$  and no symbol of  $V_T$  is rewritten in any of the rules of F.

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Node-labeled trees in the 1960's also formed the basis for the new field of tree grammars/automata/languages, see Thatcher's survey of 1973.

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The derivation relation  $(\mathcal{N} + \mathcal{T})^* \xrightarrow{\Longrightarrow} (\mathcal{N} + \mathcal{T})^*$  consists of all pairs  $\langle \alpha Y \beta, \alpha \omega \beta \rangle$  with  $Y \to \omega$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in (\mathcal{N} + \mathcal{T})^*$ .

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The words  $w \in \mathcal{T}^*$  with  $S \Rightarrow w$  constitute the language generated by G, where  $\Rightarrow$  is the reflexive transitive hull of  $\Rightarrow$ .

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(weak Chomsky)

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Strictly speaking, the tree for  $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$  is not correct; it should be just a leaf with nonterminal S. However, this is hard to distinguish from cases, where the derivation is not yet finished.

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- the direction is from top to bottom.

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For a set  $\mathcal{T}$  consider the multigraph  $\mathcal{T}_{(0)}$  with one object M, default multiarrows  $M \xrightarrow{\mu_n} M^n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and multiarrows  $M \xrightarrow{a} M^0$ ,  $a \in \mathcal{T}$ .

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To describe the language generated by  $\gamma$  as directly as possible, we take a different approach from that of Walters.

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<sup>1</sup>not to be confused with the graph-theoretic notion of this name  $\langle \Xi \rangle \langle \Xi \rangle = 0$ 

▷ Freely extend  $\gamma$  to a multifunctor  $G^* \xrightarrow{\gamma^*} \mathcal{T}^*_{\langle 0 \rangle}$  (in analogy to forming the free category over a graph).

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The intention is to have the default multiarrows obey certain identifications in the free multicategory  $T^*_{(0)}$ ; hence its construction needs to be revised:

Identifications in  $\mathcal{T}^*_{(0)}$ 

# Identifications in $\mathfrak{T}^*_{\langle 0 \rangle}$



for  $m,n\in\mathbb{N}$ , m>0.

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Any generated  $w \in \mathfrak{T}^*$  appears as yield directly underneath  $\mu_{|w|}$ . This motivates us to write  $\varepsilon$  not only for  $\mu_0$ , but also for  $\mu_n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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Besides a certain elegance of the new approach and the better handling of  $\varepsilon$ -productions ("peanuts"), how do we "sell" this to computer scientists or the tree-people (Ents?), who seem to be perfectly happy with the traditional approach?

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(There is a second (better?) isomorphism utilizing reverse Polish notation.)

#### Recovering the wire-labels,



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Jürgen Koslowski (TU-BS) Chomsky and Greibach normal form CT 2011, Vancouver, July 22 14 / 25

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Of course, this diagram no longer lives in the reflexive multigraph  $~T_{\langle 0\rangle}$  , but rather in  $~T_{\langle \mathbb{N}\rangle}$  ,

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Currying the non-nullary productions of a GNF and splitting the results clearly yields an equivalent CNF:

Not being able to recover previously collapsed green wires creates no problems. The new objects can be mapped on the old ones.



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This is an expensive operation as it can square the size of the grammar, *i.e.*, the sum over the symbols in all productions.

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Final states provide an externally imposed mechanism for termination, as  $T_{\langle 1 \rangle}$  has no default for this.

Jürgen Koslowski (TU-BS)

Extend the notion of CFG to faithful multigraph morphisms  $G \xrightarrow{\gamma} \mathcal{T}_{(\mathbb{N})}$ .

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Conventionally, PDA's are defined with external states. Eliminating the stack then leads to FSA's, also called 0-PDA's. As seen above, FSA's can also be realized by pure PDA's, where the stack is limited to depth 1.

# (Multi-)Graph Comprehension

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Both bijections remain valid, if  $\mathfrak{T}_{\langle 1 \rangle}$  and  $\mathfrak{T}_{\langle \mathbb{N} \rangle}$  are replaced by an arbitrary graph, resp., multigraph as control.

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Both bijections remain valid, if  $\mathfrak{T}_{\langle 1 \rangle}$  and  $\mathfrak{T}_{\langle \mathbb{N} \rangle}$  are replaced by an arbitrary graph, resp., multigraph as control. Restricting to finite G imposes appropriate finiteness conditions on the "denominators".

Moving to the free monoidal category in the multi-setting yields

$$\frac{G \stackrel{\gamma}{\longrightarrow} \mathbb{T}^{\star}_{\langle \mathbb{N} \rangle}}{\overline{\mathbb{T}^{\star}_{\langle \mathbb{N} \rangle} \stackrel{\mathsf{\Gamma}}{\longrightarrow} rel}}$$

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Instead of *rel*, matrix categories over other rigs yield further instances of this phenomenon, like probabilistic or weighted transition systems.

## **Obvious questions**

Chomsky and Greibach normal form CT 2011, Vancouver, July 22

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Jürgen Koslowski (TU-BS)

What about general grammars with unrestricted productions

 $\mathcal{V}^*\times\mathcal{N}\times\mathcal{V}^* \stackrel{\rightarrow}{\longrightarrow} \mathcal{V}^* \quad \text{where} \quad \mathcal{V}:=\mathcal{T}+\mathcal{N}$ 

(the left side has to contain at least one nonterminal)?

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A combination of the last two ideas indeed will do the trick.

Recall that planar poly-bicategories as well as polycategories admit a very nice notion of so-called linear adjoints, together with a mate calculus.

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In analogy with the notion of reflexive (multi-)graph, where implicitly a set of equations is specified by which to factor the absolutely free (multi-)category, we consider adjoint polygraphs, which are supposed to already contain the units and counits of the "free polycategory with linear adjunctions" over it as distinguished poly-2-cells.

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In machine terms we obtain pure 2-PDA's, which are more powerful than pure PDA's, as they can recognize shuffles of context-free languages (which need not be context-free anymore).

Recall that planar poly-bicategories as well as polycategories admit a very nice notion of so-called linear adjoints, together with a mate calculus.

In analogy with the notion of reflexive (multi-)graph, where implicitly a set of equations is specified by which to factor the absolutely free (multi-)category, we consider adjoint polygraphs, which are supposed to already contain the units and counits of the "free polycategory with linear adjunctions" over it as distinguished poly-2-cells.

Of course,  $\mathcal{T}_{\langle \mathbb{N} \rangle}$  needs to be replaced by an obvious polygraph  $\mathcal{T}_{\langle \mathbb{N} \rangle}^{\langle \mathbb{N} \rangle}$ , where again all hom-sets coincide with  $\mathcal{T} + \{\varepsilon\}$ .

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2-PDA's with external states are well-known to be equivalent to Turing machines.

Do pure 2-PDA's suffice to simulate Turing machines for decision problems?

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- ▷ What about transducers, *i.e.*, how should output be handled?
- ▷ Work out the details for polygraph comprehension.

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# Thank you!

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Chomsky and Greibach normal form CT 2011, Vancouver, July 22 25 / 25

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