

# CFLs, Finite Unary Sets, DFAs, NFAs

# Where this Talk Came From

This talk is based on the paper  
*Simulating Finite Automata with Context-Free Grammars* by  
Domaratzki, Pighizzini, Shallit. Information Processing Letters,  
Volume 84, 2002,339-344.

# CFLs for Finite Unary Sets

# CFG's for $\{e, a, a^2, a^3, a^4, a^5\}$

We do  $n = 5$ .

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$$G_3 \rightarrow G_2 G_1 \quad L(G_3) = \{aaa\}$$

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$$G_5 \rightarrow G_4 G_1 \quad L(G_5) = \{aaaaa\}$$

Can generalize to get  $G_0, \dots, G_r$  with  $L(G_i) = \{a^i\}$ .

CFG's for  $\{e, a^5, a^{10}, a^{15}, a^{20}, a^{25}\}$

## CFG's for $\{e, a^5, a^{10}, a^{15}, a^{20}, a^{25}\}$

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$$F_0 \rightarrow e \quad L(F_0) = \{e\}.$$

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## CFG's for $\{e, a^5, a^{10}, a^{15}, a^{20}, a^{25}\}$

$$\begin{aligned} F_0 &\rightarrow e & L(F_0) &= \{e\}. \\ F_1 &\rightarrow G_5 & L(F_1) &= \{a^5\}. \\ F_2 &\rightarrow F_1 F_1 & L(F_2) &= \{a^{10}\}. \end{aligned}$$

## CFG's for $\{e, a^5, a^{10}, a^{15}, a^{20}, a^{25}\}$

$$F_0 \rightarrow e \quad L(F_0) = \{e\}.$$

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$$F_3 \rightarrow F_2 F_1 \quad L(F_3) = \{a^{15}\}.$$



## CFG's for $\{e, a^5, a^{10}, a^{15}, a^{20}, a^{25}\}$

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$$F_3 \rightarrow F_2 F_1 \quad L(F_3) = \{a^{15}\}.$$

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## CFG's for $\{e, a^5, a^{10}, a^{15}, a^{20}, a^{25}\}$

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$$F_3 \rightarrow F_2 F_1 \quad L(F_3) = \{a^{15}\}.$$

$$F_4 \rightarrow F_3 F_1 \quad L(F_4) = \{a^{20}\}.$$

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Can generalize to get  $F_0, \dots, F_k$  with  $L(F_i) = \{a^{ik}\}$ .

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$$F_3 \rightarrow F_2 F_1 \quad L(F_3) = \{a^{15}\}.$$

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$$F_5 \rightarrow F_4 F_1 \quad L(F_5) = \{a^{25}\}.$$

Can generalize to get  $F_0, \dots, F_k$  with  $L(F_i) = \{a^{ik}\}$ .

We will use  $k = r$  so  $F_0, \dots, F_r$  with  $L(F_i) = \{a^{ir}\}$ .

CFG's for  $\{e, a^{25}, a^{50}, a^{75}, a^{100}, a^{125}\}$

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Can generalize to get  $E_0, \dots, E_k$  with  $L(E_i) = \{a^{ik_1 k_2}\}$ .

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Can generalize to get  $E_0, \dots, E_k$  with  $L(E_i) = \{a^{ik_1 k_2}\}$ .

We will use  $k_1 = k_2 = r$  so  $E_0, \dots, E_r$  with  $L(T_i) = \{a^{ir^2}\}$ .

CFG for  $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just  $\{e, \dots, a^{24}\}$ .

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$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_2 \mid F_1 G_2 \mid F_2 G_2 \mid F_3 G_2 \mid F_4 G_2$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{10}, a^{11}, a^{12}, a^{13}, a^{14}\}$

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$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_1 \mid F_1 G_1 \mid F_2 G_1 \mid F_3 G_1 \mid F_4 G_1$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^5, a^6, a^7, a^8, a^9\}$

$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_2 \mid F_1 G_2 \mid F_2 G_2 \mid F_3 G_2 \mid F_4 G_2$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{10}, a^{11}, a^{12}, a^{13}, a^{14}\}$

$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_3 \mid F_1 G_3 \mid F_2 G_3 \mid F_3 G_3 \mid F_4 G_3$

## CFG for $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just $\{e, \dots, a^{24}\}$ .

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$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_1 \mid F_1 G_1 \mid F_2 G_1 \mid F_3 G_1 \mid F_4 G_1$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^5, a^6, a^7, a^8, a^9\}$

$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_2 \mid F_1 G_2 \mid F_2 G_2 \mid F_3 G_2 \mid F_4 G_2$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{10}, a^{11}, a^{12}, a^{13}, a^{14}\}$

$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_3 \mid F_1 G_3 \mid F_2 G_3 \mid F_3 G_3 \mid F_4 G_3$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{15}, a^{16}, a^{17}, a^{18}, a^{19}\}$



# CFG for $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just $\{e, \dots, a^{24}\}$ .

Recall:  $L(E_0) = \{e\}$        $L(F_i) = \{a^i\}$        $L(G_i) = \{a^{5i}\}$ .

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$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_0 \mid F_1 G_0 \mid F_2 G_0 \mid F_3 G_0 \mid F_4 G_0$

From this  $S_0$  generates  $\{e, a, a^2, a^3, a^4\}$

$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_1 \mid F_1 G_1 \mid F_2 G_1 \mid F_3 G_1 \mid F_4 G_1$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^5, a^6, a^7, a^8, a^9\}$

$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_2 \mid F_1 G_2 \mid F_2 G_2 \mid F_3 G_2 \mid F_4 G_2$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{10}, a^{11}, a^{12}, a^{13}, a^{14}\}$

$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_3 \mid F_1 G_3 \mid F_2 G_3 \mid F_3 G_3 \mid F_4 G_3$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{15}, a^{16}, a^{17}, a^{18}, a^{19}\}$

$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_4 \mid F_1 G_4 \mid F_2 G_4 \mid F_3 G_4 \mid F_4 G_4$

# CFG for $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just $\{e, \dots, a^{24}\}$ .

Recall:  $L(E_0) = \{e\}$        $L(F_i) = \{a^i\}$        $L(G_i) = \{a^{5i}\}$ .

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From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^5, a^6, a^7, a^8, a^9\}$

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From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{10}, a^{11}, a^{12}, a^{13}, a^{14}\}$

$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_3 \mid F_1 G_3 \mid F_2 G_3 \mid F_3 G_3 \mid F_4 G_3$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{15}, a^{16}, a^{17}, a^{18}, a^{19}\}$

$S_0 \rightarrow F_0 G_4 \mid F_1 G_4 \mid F_2 G_4 \mid F_3 G_4 \mid F_4 G_4$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{20}, a^{21}, a^{22}, a^{23}, a^{24}\}$

CFG for  $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just  $\{a^{25}, \dots, a^{44}\}$ .

**CFG for  $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just  $\{a^{25}, \dots, a^{44}\}$ .**

Recall:  $L(E_1) = \{a^{25}\}$        $L(F_i) = \{a^i\}$        $L(G_i) = \{a^{5i}\}$ .

**CFG for  $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just  $\{a^{25}, \dots, a^{44}\}$ .**

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## CFG for $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just $\{a^{25}, \dots, a^{44}\}$ .

Recall:  $L(E_1) = \{a^{25}\}$        $L(F_i) = \{a^i\}$        $L(G_i) = \{a^{5^i}\}$ .

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From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{25}, a^{26}, a^{27}, a^{28}, a^{29}\}$

## CFG for $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just $\{a^{25}, \dots, a^{44}\}$ .

Recall:  $L(E_1) = \{a^{25}\}$        $L(F_i) = \{a^i\}$        $L(G_i) = \{a^{5i}\}$ .

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## CFG for $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just $\{a^{25}, \dots, a^{44}\}$ .

Recall:  $L(E_1) = \{a^{25}\}$        $L(F_i) = \{a^i\}$        $L(G_i) = \{a^{5i}\}$ .

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$S_1 \rightarrow F_0 G_1 \mid F_1 G_1 \mid F_2 G_1 \mid F_3 G_1 \mid F_4 G_1$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{30}, a^{31}, a^{32}, a^{33}, a^{34}\}$

## CFG for $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just $\{a^{25}, \dots, a^{44}\}$ .

Recall:  $L(E_1) = \{a^{25}\}$        $L(F_i) = \{a^i\}$        $L(G_i) = \{a^{5i}\}$ .

$S \rightarrow E_1 S_1$

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From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{25}, a^{26}, a^{27}, a^{28}, a^{29}\}$

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From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{45}, a^{46}, a^{47}, a^{48}, a^{49}\}$

CFG for  $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just  $\{a^{50}, \dots, a^{74}\}$ .



**CFG for  $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just  $\{a^{50}, \dots, a^{74}\}$ .**

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From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{60}, a^{61}, a^{62}, a^{63}, a^{64}\}$



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From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{50}, a^{51}, a^{52}, a^{53}, a^{54}\}$

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$S_2 \rightarrow F_0 G_4 \mid F_1 G_4 \mid F_2 G_4 \mid F_3 G_4 \mid F_4 G_4$

From this  $S$  generates  $\{a^{70}, a^{71}, a^{72}, a^{73}, a^{74}\}$

CFG for  $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just  $\{a^{75}, \dots, a^{100}\}$ .

**CFG for  $\{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{125}\}$ : Just  $\{a^{75}, \dots, a^{100}\}$ .**

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**Thm** Let  $A = \{e, a, \dots, a^{124}\}$ . There is a CFG  $G$  such that  $L(G) = A$  and  $|G| = 23$ . (We will generalize this later.)

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For there to be some  $A$  that no CFG on  $t$  nonterminals generates we need  $2^{t^3+t} < 2^n$ . Take  $t = 0.5n^{1/3}$ .

# DFAs for Finite Unary Sets