

St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Computer Science
CSCI 356: Theory of Computing
Assignment 3
Due November 7, 2025 at 11:30am

Assignment Regulations.

- This assignment must be completed individually.
 - Please include your full name and email address on your submission.
 - You may either handwrite or typeset your submission. If your submission is handwritten, please ensure that the handwriting is neat and legible.
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- [7 marks] 1. (a) Consider the context-free language

$$L_1 = \{a^{2n}b^{3n} \mid n \geq 0\}.$$

Construct a pushdown automaton that recognizes this language.

- (b) Consider the context-free language

$$L_2 = \{a^{2i}b^i c^{3j}d^j \mid i \geq 1, j \geq 1\}.$$

Give a context-free grammar that generates this language.

- [6 marks] 2. Consider the following grammar:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow aSa \mid B \\ B &\rightarrow bbC \mid bb \\ C &\rightarrow cC \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Convert this grammar to an equivalent grammar in Chomsky normal form.

- [7 marks] 3. Consider the following context-free grammar G , where $V = \{S, A, B, C\}$, $\Sigma_G = \{a, b\}$, the start nonterminal is S , and the rule set contains the following rules:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow SB \mid AB \\ A &\rightarrow CC \\ B &\rightarrow b \\ C &\rightarrow a \end{aligned}$$

Convert G to an equivalent pushdown automaton \mathcal{N} . You do not need to draw the pushdown automaton, though you can if you like; you just need to give each component of the tuple $\mathcal{N} = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F)$.

- [5 marks] 4. Let $\Sigma = \{a, b, c, d\}$. Using the pumping lemma for context-free languages, prove that the following language is not context-free:

$$L = \{a^{i+1}b^{2j}c^{2j}d^{2j} \mid i \geq 0, j \geq 0\}.$$