

# Automata Theory (2B)

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- PushDown Automata (PDA)

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# Deterministic Pushdown Automaton (PDA)

# Deterministic PDA (1) – transition relation

An element  $(p, a, A, q, \alpha) \in \delta$  is a **transition** of **M**.

in **state**  $p \in Q$ ,

on the **input**  $a \in \Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}$  and

with  $A \in \Gamma$  as **topmost stack symbol**,

**M** may

- read  $a$ ,
- change the **state** to  $q$ ,
- pop  $A$ ,
- replacing it by pushing  $\alpha \in \Gamma^*$ .

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown\\_automaton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown_automaton)

# Deterministic PDA (1) – input operations

on the **input**  $a \in \Sigma \cup \{ \varepsilon \}$

the  $( \Sigma \cup \{ \varepsilon \} )$  component of the **transition relation** is used to formalize that the PDA can

either read a letter from the input,  $\Sigma$   
or proceed leaving the input untouched.  $\varepsilon$

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown\\_automaton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown_automaton)

# Deterministic PDA (2) – transition function

$\delta$  is the **transition function**,

mapping  $Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \times \Gamma$   
into finite subsets of  $Q \times \Gamma^*$

$$\delta(p, a, A) \rightarrow (q, \alpha)$$

Here  $\delta(p, a, A)$  contains all possible actions in **state**  $p$   
with  $A$  on the **stack**, while reading  $a$  on the **input**.

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One writes for example  $\delta(p, a, A) = \{(q, BA)\}$   
precisely when  $(q, BA) \in \delta(p, a, A)$   
Because  $((p, a, A), \{(q, BA)\}) \in \delta$ .

$$\delta(p, a, A) \rightarrow (q, \alpha)$$

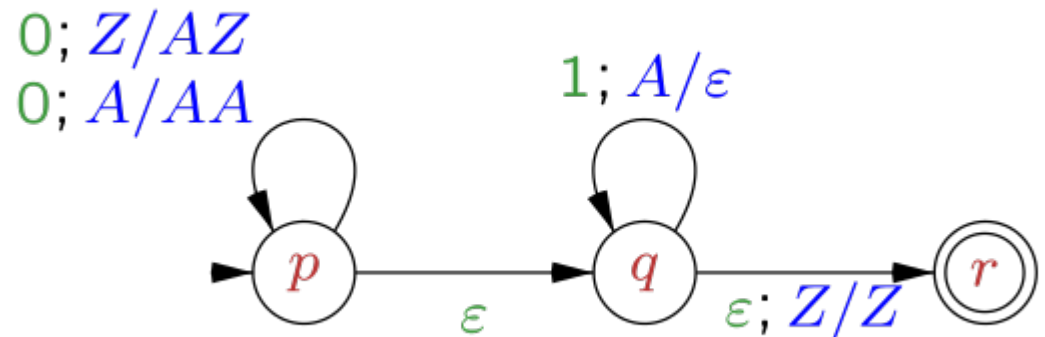
Note that finite in this definition is essential.

# Deterministic PDA Example (1) – description

The following is the formal description of the PDA which recognizes the language  $\{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$  by final state:

$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z, F)$ , where

**states:**  $Q = \{p, q, r\}$   
**input alphabet:**  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$   
**stack alphabet:**  $\Gamma = \{A, Z\}$   
**start state:**  $q_0 = p$   
**start stack symbol:**  $Z$   
**accepting states:**  $F = \{r\}$



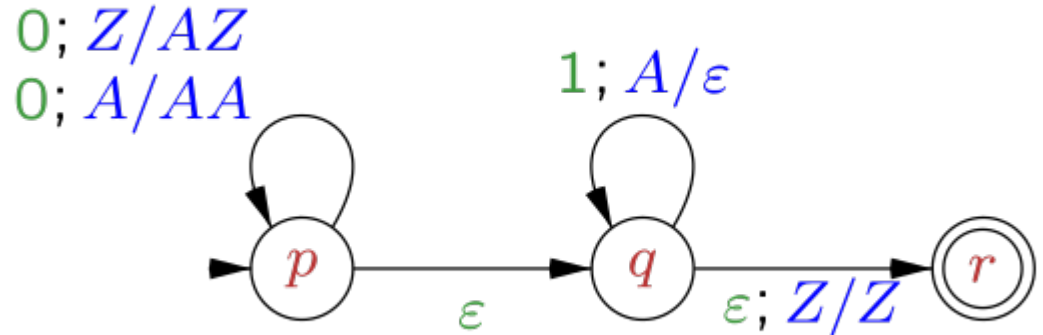
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown\\_automaton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown_automaton)



# Deterministic PDA Example (2) – instructions

The **transition relation**  $\delta$  consists of the following six instructions:

$(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$	$0; Z/AZ, p \rightarrow p$
$(p, 0, A, p, AA)$	$0; A/AA, p \rightarrow p$
$(p, \epsilon, Z, q, Z)$	$\epsilon, Z/Z, p \rightarrow q$
$(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$	$\epsilon, A/A, p \rightarrow q$
$(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$	$1, A/\epsilon, q \rightarrow q$
$(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$	$\epsilon, Z/Z, p \rightarrow r$



the instruction  $(p, a, A, q, \alpha)$  by an edge from state  $p$  to state  $q$  labelled by  $a; A/\alpha$  (read  $a$ ; replace  $A$  by  $\alpha$ ).

# Deterministic PDA Example (3) – instruction description

- $(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$  ,  
 $(p, 0, A, p, AA)$ ,  
in state  $p$  any time the symbol  $0$  is read,  
one  $A$  is pushed onto the stack.  
Pushing symbol  $A$  on top of another  $A$  is  
formalized as replacing top  $A$  by  $AA$   
(and similarly for pushing symbol  $A$  on top of a  $Z$ )
- $(p, \epsilon, Z, q, Z)$ ,  
 $(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$ ,  
at any moment the automaton may move  
from state  $p$  to state  $q$ .
- $(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$ ,  
in state  $q$ , for each symbol  $1$  read,  
one  $A$  is popped.
- $(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$ .  
the machine may move from state  $q$   
to accepting state  $r$   
only when the stack consists of a single  $Z$ .

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown\\_automaton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown_automaton)

# Deterministic PDA Computation (1) – ID

to formalize the **semantics** of the pushdown automaton a description of the current situation is introduced.

Any 3-tuple  $(p, w, \beta) \in Q \times \Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*$  is called

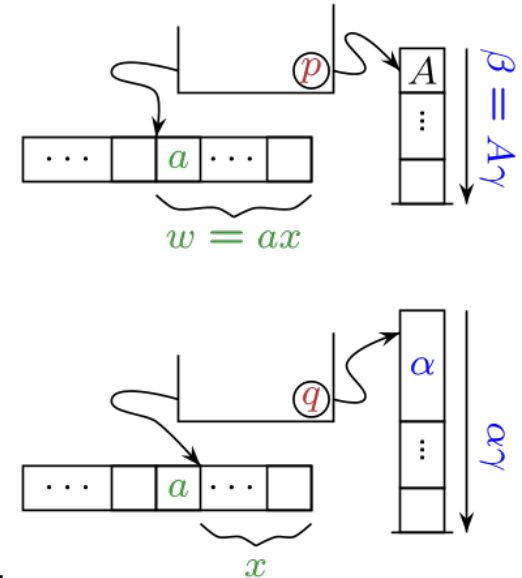
an **instantaneous description (ID)** of

$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, Z, F)$  which includes

the current **state**,

the part of the **input** tape that has not been read, and

the contents of the **stack** (topmost symbol written first).



# Deterministic PDA Computation (2) – step-relation

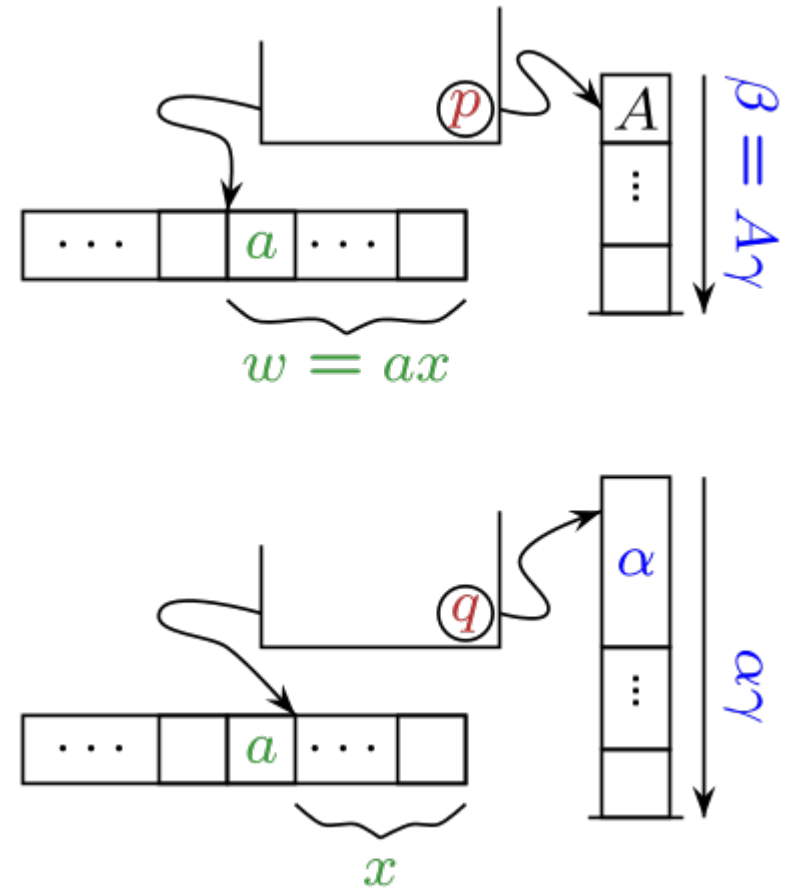
The **transition relation**  $\delta$  defines the **step-relation**  $\vdash_M$  on **instantaneous descriptions**.

For instruction  $(p, a, A, q, \alpha) \in \delta$  there exists a step  $(p, ax, Ay) \vdash_M (q, x, \alpha y)$ , for every  $x \in \Sigma^*$  and every  $y \in \Gamma^*$ .

$p, q$  : states

$ax, x$  : inputs

$Ay, \alpha y$  : stack elementes



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown\\_automaton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown_automaton)

# Deterministic PDA Computation (3) – non-deterministic

## **Nondeterministic :**

in a given **instantaneous description**  $(p, w, \beta)$

there may be several possible **steps**.

Any of these steps can be chosen in a computation.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown\\_automaton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown_automaton)

# Deterministic PDA Computation (4) – pop operation

With the above definition in each step always a single symbol (top of the stack) is popped, replacing it with as many symbols as necessary.

As a result no step is defined when the stack is empty.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown\\_automaton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown_automaton)

# Deterministic PDA Computation (5) – initial description

Computations of the pushdown automaton are sequences of steps.

The computation starts in the **initial state**  $q_0$  with the **initial stack symbol**  $Z$  on the stack, and a string  $w$  on the **input tape**, thus with **initial description**  $(q_0, w, Z)$ .

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown\\_automaton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown_automaton)

# Deterministic PDA Computation (6) – acceptance modes

There are two modes of **accepting**.

either accepts by **final state**,

which means after reading its input the automaton reaches an **accepting state** (in  $F$ )

uses the **internal memory (state)**

or it accepts by **empty stack** ( $\epsilon$ ),

which means after reading its input the automaton empties its stack.

uses the **external memory (stack)**.

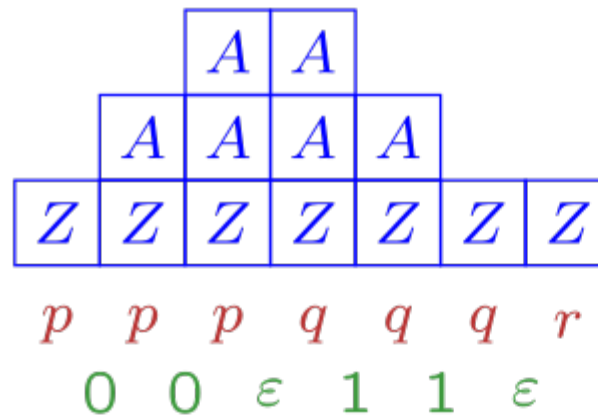
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# Computation Example (1)

The following illustrates how the above PDA computes on different input strings.

The subscript  $M$  from the step symbol  $\vdash$  is here omitted.



$(p, 0011, Z) \vdash$   
 $(p, 011, AZ) \vdash$   
 $(p, 11, AAZ) \vdash$   
 $(q, 11, AAZ) \vdash$   
 $(q, 1, AZ) \vdash$   
 $(q, \varepsilon, Z) \vdash$   
 $(r, \varepsilon, Z)$

# Computation Example (2)

input string = 0011.

There are various computations, depending on the moment the move from state  $p$  to state  $q$  is made.

Only one of these is accepting.

$(p, 0011, Z) \vdash$

$(q, 0011, Z) \vdash$

$(r, 0011, Z)$

$(p, \epsilon, Z, q, Z),$

$(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z).$

1.  $(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$
2.  $(p, 0, A, p, AA)$
3.  $(p, \epsilon, Z, q, Z)$
4.  $(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$
5.  $(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$
6.  $(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$

# Computation Example (3)

The final state is accepting, but the input is not accepted this way as it has not been read.

$(p, 0011, Z) \vdash$	$(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$
$(p, 011, AZ) \vdash$	$(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$
$(q, 011, AZ)$	

No further steps possible.

1.  $(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$
2.  $(p, 0, A, p, AA)$
3.  $(p, \epsilon, Z, q, Z)$
4.  $(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$
5.  $(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$
6.  $(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$

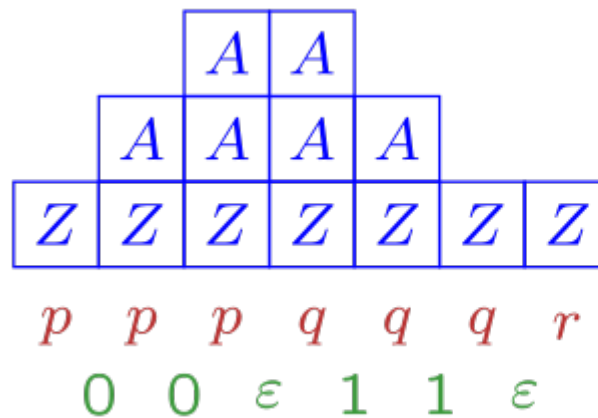
# Computation Example (4)

$(p, 0011, Z) \vdash$   
 $(p, 011, AZ) \vdash$   
 $(p, 11, AAZ) \vdash$   
 $(q, 11, AAZ) \vdash$   
 $(q, 1, AZ) \vdash$   
 $(q, \epsilon, Z) \vdash$   
 $(r, \epsilon, Z)$

$(p, 0, A, p, AA)$   
 $(p, 0, A, p, AA)$   
 $(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$   
 $(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$   
 $(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$   
 $(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$

1.  $(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$
2.  $(p, 0, A, p, AA)$
3.  $(p, \epsilon, Z, q, Z)$
4.  $(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$
5.  $(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$
6.  $(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$

Accepting computation: ends in accepting state, while complete input has been read.



$(p, 0011, Z) \vdash$   
 $(p, 011, AZ) \vdash$   
 $(p, 11, AAZ) \vdash$   
 $(q, 11, AAZ) \vdash$   
 $(q, 1, AZ) \vdash$   
 $(q, \epsilon, Z) \vdash$   
 $(r, \epsilon, Z)$

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown\\_automaton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushdown_automaton)

# Computation Example (5)

Input string = 00111. Again there are various computations.  
None of these is accepting.

$(p, 00111, Z) \vdash$   
 $(q, 00111, Z) \vdash$   
 $(r, 00111, Z)$

$(p, \epsilon, Z, q, Z)$   
 $(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$

The final state is accepting,  
but the input is not accepted  
this way as it has not been read.

1.  $(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$
2.  $(p, 0, A, p, AA)$
3.  $(p, \epsilon, Z, q, Z)$
4.  $(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$
5.  $(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$
6.  $(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$

# Computation Example (6)

$(p, 00111, Z) \vdash$   
 $(p, 0111, AZ) \vdash$   
 $(q, 0111, AZ)$

$(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$   
 $(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$

No further steps possible.

1.  $(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$
2.  $(p, 0, A, p, AA)$
3.  $(p, \epsilon, Z, q, Z)$
4.  $(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$
5.  $(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$
6.  $(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$

# Computation Example (7)

$(p, 00111, Z) \vdash$	$(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$
$(p, 0111, AZ) \vdash$	$(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$
$(p, 111, AAZ) \vdash$	$(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$
$(q, 111, AAZ) \vdash$	$(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$
$(q, 11, AZ) \vdash$	$(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$
$(q, 1, Z) \vdash$	$(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$
$(r, 1, Z)$	

1.  $(p, 0, Z, p, AZ)$
2.  $(p, 0, A, p, AA)$
3.  $(p, \epsilon, Z, q, Z)$
4.  $(p, \epsilon, A, q, A)$
5.  $(q, 1, A, q, \epsilon)$
6.  $(q, \epsilon, Z, r, Z)$

The final state is accepting, but the input is not accepted this way as it has not been (completely) read.

# PDA and Context Free Language (1)

Every **context-free grammar** can be transformed into an equivalent **nondeterministic pushdown automaton**.

The derivation process of the grammar is simulated in a **leftmost way**

Where the grammar rewrites a **nonterminal**, the **PDA** takes the **topmost nonterminal** from its **stack** and replaces it by the **right-hand part** of a grammatical rule (expand).

Where the grammar generates a **terminal** symbol, the **PDA** reads a symbol from **input** when it is the **topmost symbol** on the **stack** (match).

In a sense the **stack** of the **PDA** contains the unprocessed data of the grammar, corresponding to a pre-order traversal of a derivation tree.

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# Computation Example (3)

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Technically, given a context-free grammar, the PDA has a single state, 1, and its transition relation is constructed as follows.

$(1, \varepsilon, A, 1, \alpha)$  for each rule  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  (expand)

$(1, a, a, 1, \varepsilon)$  for each terminal symbol  $a$  (match)

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$(1, a, a, 1, \varepsilon)$  for each terminal symbol  $a$  (match)

The PDA **accepts** by **empty stack**.

Its **initial stack symbol** is the grammar's **start symbol**.

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## References

- [1] <http://en.wikipedia.org/>
- [2]