

Descriptive Complexity of Multi-Continuous Grammars

Alexander Meduna *

Abstract

The present paper discusses multi-continuous grammars and their descriptive complexity with respect to the number of nonterminals. It proves that six-nonterminal multi-continuous grammars characterize the family of recursively enumerable languages. In addition, this paper formulates an open problem area closely related to this characterization.

Key Words: multi-continuous grammars; descriptive complexity; nonterminals; recursively enumerable languages.

1 Introduction

The language theory has intensively and systematically investigated the descriptive complexity of grammars (see Chapter 4 in [1] and references therein). This investigation has achieved several characterizations of the family of recursively enumerable languages by various grammars with a reduced number of nonterminals (see [4] through [6]).

The present paper discusses the descriptive complexity of multi-continuous grammars (see [3]). It proves that six-nonterminal multi-continuous grammars characterize the family of recursively enumerable languages. In its conclusion, this paper points out some open problems closely related to this characterization.

2 Definitions

This paper assumes that the reader is familiar with the formal language theory, including selective substitution grammars (see Chapter 10 in [1]).

Let Σ be an alphabet. The cardinality of Σ is denoted by $Card(\Sigma)$. Σ^* represents the free monoid generated by Σ under the operation of concatenation. The unit of Σ^* is denoted by ϵ . Set $\Sigma^+ = \Sigma^* - \epsilon$; algebraically, Σ^+ is the free semigroup generated by Σ under the operation of concatenation. For $w \in \Sigma^*$, $|w|$ denotes the length of w and $subword(w)$ is defined as $subword(w) = \{x : x \in V^* \text{ and } x \text{ is a subword of } w\}$.

*Computing Center at Technical University of Brno, Udolní 19, Brno 60200, Czech Republic

The **bold** symbols have special meaning hereafter. If \mathbf{a} is a symbol, then \mathbf{a} means that the original symbol, a , is *activated*. Analogously, for an alphabet Σ ,

$$\Sigma = \{\mathbf{a} : a \in \Sigma\} \text{ and } \{\mathbf{x} : x \in \Sigma^+\}.$$

Define the homomorphism, ι , from $(\Sigma \cup \Sigma)^*$ to Σ^* as

$$\iota(\mathbf{a}) = a \text{ and } \iota(a) = a$$

for all $a \in \Sigma$.

An *EOS system* is quadruple

$$E = (\Sigma, P, S, T),$$

where Σ is an alphabet, $T \subseteq \Sigma$, $S \in \Sigma - T$, and P is a finite substitution on $\Sigma + *$. An *EOS-based s-grammar*, G , is a quintuple

$$G = (\Sigma, P, S, T, K),$$

where Σ, P, S , and T have the same meaning as in an EOS system, and $K \subseteq (\Sigma \cup \Sigma)^*$. Let $u, v \in \Sigma^*$. G *directly derives* v from u , symbolically denoted as

$$u \Rightarrow v,$$

if either $u = S$ and $v \in P(S)$ or there exists a natural number, n , so

1. $u = a_1 \dots a_n$ with $a_i \in T$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$
2. $w = b_1 \dots b_n, w \in K$, and $\iota(w) = u$
3. $v = x_1 \dots x_n$ with $x_i \in P(a_i)$ if $b_i \in \Sigma$, and $x_i = a_i$ if $b_i \in \Sigma$ for each $i = 1, \dots, n$.

Instead of $x \in P(a)$, this paper writes $a \rightarrow x$ hereafter. In the standard manner, extend \Rightarrow to \Rightarrow^n , where $n \geq 0$. Based on \Rightarrow^n , define \Rightarrow^+ and \Rightarrow^* . The *language of* G , $L(G)$,

is defined as

$$L(G) = \{w \in T^* : S \Rightarrow^* w\}.$$

Let m be a natural number, and let $G = (\Sigma, P, S, T, K)$ be an EOS-based s-grammar. G is an *m-continuous grammar* if for some $n \geq 1$,

$$K = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_n$$

so that for $i = 1, \dots, n$,

$$K_i = \Omega_1 \Pi_1 \Omega_2 \dots \Omega_m \Pi_m \Omega_{m+1},$$

where

$$\Omega_j \in \{V^* : V \subseteq \Sigma\} \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, m+1$$

$$\Pi_k \in \{W^+ : W \subseteq \Sigma\} \text{ for } k = 1, \dots, m.$$

G is a *multi-continuous grammar* if G represents an m -continuous grammar for some $m \geq 1$. A *queue grammar* (see [2]) is a sextuple, $Q = (V, T, W, F, R, g)$, where V and W are alphabets satisfying $V \cap W = \emptyset$, $T \subseteq V$, $F \subseteq V$, $F \subseteq W$, $R \in (V - T)(W - F)$, and $g \subseteq (V \times (W - F)) \times (V^* \times W)$ is a finite relation such that for any $a \in V$, there exists an element $(a, b, x, c) \in g$. If there exist $u, v \in V^*W$, $a \in V$, $r, z \in V^*$, and $b, c \in W$ such that $(a, b, z, c) \in g$, $u = arb$, and $v = rzc$, then Q directly derives v from u , denoted by $u \Rightarrow v$. In the standard manner, define \Rightarrow^n , \Rightarrow^+ , and \Rightarrow^* . A derivation of the form $R \Rightarrow^* wf$ with $w \in T^*$ and $f \in F$ is a successful derivation. The language of $QL(Q)$, is defined as $L(Q) = \{w \in T^* : R \Rightarrow^* wf \text{ where } f \in F\}$.

3 Results

The present section demonstrates that the family of recursively enumerable languages equals the family of languages g 1 by six-nonterminal multicontinuous grammars.

Lemma 1 *Let*

$$Q = (V, T, W, FR, g)$$

be a queue grammar. Then, there exists a six-nonterminal multi-continuous grammar, G , satisfying

$$L(G) - \{\varepsilon\} = L(Q) - \{\varepsilon\}.$$

Proof: Let

$$Q = (V, T, W, F, R, g)$$

be a queue grammar. Without any loss of generality, assume that

$$(V \cup W) \cap \{0, 1, 2, 3, X, Y\} = \emptyset.$$

Construction:

For some $n \geq 2^{\#(V \cup W)}$, introduce the following four mappings $-\beta$, ρ , σ , and δ :

1. Define an injection β from $(V \cup W)$ to $(\{0, 1\}\{3\})^n$. In the standard manner, extend β so it is defined from $(V \cup W)^*$ to $((\{0, 1\}\{3\})^n)^*$. β^{-1} represents the inverse of β .
2. Let ρ be the mapping from $(\{0, 1\}\{3\})^n((\{0, 1\}\{3\})^n \cup T)^*$ to $((\{0, 1\}\{3\})^n \cup T)^*(\{0, 1\}\{3\})^n$ defined as

$$\rho(ax) = xa$$

for all $a \in (\{0, 1\}\{3\})^n$ and $x \in ((\{0, 1\}\{3\})^n \cup T)^*$.

3. Let σ be the mapping from $(T \cup \{0, 1, 2, 3\})^*$ to $(T \cup \{0, 1, 3\})^*$ defined as

$$\sigma(a) = a \text{ for all } a \in T \cup \{0, 1, 3\} \text{ and } \sigma(2) = \varepsilon.$$

4. Let δ be the mapping from $\{0, 1, 3\}^*$ to $\{X, Y, 3\}^*$ defined as

$$\delta(0) = X, \delta(1) = X \text{ and } \delta(3) = 3.$$

Set

$$m = \max\{|\beta(x)| : (a, b, x, c) \in g \text{ and some } a \in W - F, c \in W, \text{ and } b \in V\} + 6n + 2.$$

Define the following m -continuous grammar

$$G = (T \cup \{0, 1, 2, 3, X, Y\}, P, 2, T, K),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} P = & \{2 \rightarrow \beta(b)2\beta(a)X^{m-2|\beta(b)\beta(a)|-2}2 : a \in V - T, b \in W - F, ab = R\} \\ & \cup \{a \rightarrow a : a \in T \cup \{0, 1, 2, 3\}\} \\ & \cup \{3 \rightarrow 32, 2 \rightarrow \varepsilon\} \\ & \cup \{i \rightarrow \delta(i) : i = 0, 1, 3\} \\ & \cup \{a \rightarrow \varepsilon : a \in \{X, Y, 3\}\} \\ & \cup \{2 \rightarrow X^j2 : j = 1, \dots, m - 4n - 2\} \\ & \cup \{2 \rightarrow X^j : j = 1, \dots, m - 2n - 1\} \\ & \cup \{2 \rightarrow \beta(c)2 : c \in W\} \\ & \cup \{2 \rightarrow \beta(x)X^{m-|\beta(abcx)|-2}2 : x \in V^*, \text{ and } (a, b, x, c) \in g, \text{ where} \\ & \quad a, c \in W - F \text{ and } b \in V\} \\ & \cup \{2 \rightarrow \beta(x)X^{m-|\beta(abcx)y|-2}2 : x \in V^*, y \in T^+, \text{ and } (a, b, xy, c) \in g, \text{ for some} \\ & \quad a \in W - F, c \in W, \text{ and } b \in V\} \\ & \cup \{2 \rightarrow yX^{m-|\beta(abc)y|-2}2 : y \in T^*, \text{ and } (a, b, y, c) \in g, \text{ for some} \\ & \quad a \in W - F, c \in W, \text{ and } b \in V\}. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

$$K = K_1 \cup K_2 \cup K_3 \cup K_4 \cup K_5 \cup K_6$$

where K_1 through K_6 are constructed as follows. Initially, set

$$K_i = \emptyset$$

for $i = 1, \dots, 6$. Then, extend K_1 through K_6 in the following way.

A. If

$$(a, b, x, c) \in g, \text{ where } b, c \in W, a \in V, \text{ and } x \in V^*$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 := & K_1 \cup \{\{\mathbf{b}_1\}^+ \{\mathbf{3}\}^+ \dots \{\mathbf{b}_n\}^+ \{\mathbf{3}\}^+ \{\mathbf{2}\}^+ \{\mathbf{a}_1\}^+ \{\mathbf{3}\}^+ \dots \{\mathbf{a}_n\}^+ \{\mathbf{3}\}^+ \\ & (\{0, 1, 3\} \cup T)^* \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \mathbf{H}_{m-|\beta(ba)|-2} \{\mathbf{2}\}^+\}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$a_i, b_i \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$a_1 3 \dots a_n 3 = \beta(a)$$

$$b_1 3 \dots b_n 3 = \beta(b)$$

$$H_j = \{X\}^+, \text{ for all } j = 1, \dots, m - 4n - 2$$

$$K_2 := K_2 \cup \{ \{ \mathbf{b}_1 \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \{ \mathbf{b}_n \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{a}_1 \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \{ \mathbf{a}_n \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{2} \}^+ \\ (\{0, 1, 3\} \cup T)^* \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \mathbf{H}_{m - |\beta(\mathbf{ba})| - 2} \{ \mathbf{2} \}^+ \},$$

where

$$a_i, b_i \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$a_1 3 \dots a_n 3 = \beta(a)$$

$$b_1 3 \dots b_n 3 = \beta(b)$$

$$H_j = \{X\}^+, \text{ for all } j = 1, \dots, m - 4n - 2$$

$$K_3 := K_3 \cup \{ \{ \delta \{ \mathbf{b}_1 \} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \{ \delta \{ \mathbf{b}_n \} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \delta \{ \mathbf{a}_1 \} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \\ \{ \delta \{ \mathbf{a}_n \} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{c}_1 \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \\ \{ \mathbf{c}_n \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{2} \}^+ (\{0, 1, 3\})^* \{ \mathbf{d}_1 \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \\ \{ \mathbf{d}_{|x|} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \mathbf{H}_{m - |\beta(\mathbf{baccx})| - 2} \{ \mathbf{2} \}^+ \},$$

where

$$a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i \in \{0, 1\}, \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$a_1 3 \dots a_n 3 = \beta(a)$$

$$b_1 3 \dots b_n 3 = \beta(b)$$

$$c_1 3 \dots c_n 3 = \beta(c) \text{ for some } c \in V$$

$$d_1 3 \dots d_{|x|} 3 = \beta(x)$$

$$H_j = \{X\}^+, \text{ for all } j = 1, \dots, m - |\beta(\mathbf{baccx})| - 2.$$

B. If

$$x \in V^*, y \in T^+, \text{ and } (a, b, xy, c) \in g \text{ for some } b, c \in W \text{ and } a \in V$$

then

$$K_4 := K_4 \cup \{ \{ \delta \{ \mathbf{b}_1 \} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \{ \delta \{ \mathbf{b}_n \} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \delta \{ \mathbf{a}_1 \} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \\ \{ \delta \{ \mathbf{a}_n \} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{c}_1 \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \\ \{ \mathbf{c}_n \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{2} \}^+ \{0, 1, 3\}^* \{ \mathbf{d}_1 \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \\ \{ \mathbf{d}_{|x|} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{e}_1 \}^+ \dots \\ \{ \mathbf{e}_{|y|} \}^+ \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \mathbf{H}_{m - |\beta(\mathbf{baccx})| - 2} \{ \mathbf{2} \}^+ \},$$

where

$$a_i, b_i \in \{0, 1\}, \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$a_1 3 \dots a_n 3 = \beta(a)$$

$$b_1 3 \dots b_n 3 = \beta(b)$$

$$c_1 3 \dots c_n 3 = \beta(c) \text{ for some } c \in V$$

$$d_1 3 \dots d_{|x|} 3 = \beta(x)$$

$$e_1 \dots e_{|y|} = y$$

$$H_j = \{X\}^+, \text{ for all } j = 1, \dots, m - |\beta(x)| - |y| - 6n - 2.$$

C. If

$$x \in T^* \text{ and } (a, b, x, c) \in g \text{ for some } b, c \in W \text{ and } a \in V$$

then

$$K_5 := K_5 \cup \{ \{ \delta(\mathbf{b}_1) \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \{ \delta(\mathbf{b}_n) \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \delta(\mathbf{a}_1) \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \\ \{ \delta(\mathbf{a}_n) \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{c}_1 \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \{ \mathbf{c}_n \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \{ \mathbf{2} \}^+ \{ 0, 1, 3 \}^* \\ \mathbf{T}^+ \{ \mathbf{e}_1 \}^+ \dots \{ \mathbf{e}_{|x|}^+ \mathbf{T}^* \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \mathbf{H}_{m-|\beta(\mathbf{bac})x|-6n-3} \{ \mathbf{2} \}^+ \},$$

where

$$a_i, b_i \in \{0, 1\}, \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$a_1 \mathbf{3} \dots a_n \mathbf{3} = \beta(a)$$

$$b_1 \mathbf{3} \dots b_n \mathbf{3} = \beta(b)$$

$$c_1 \mathbf{3} \dots c_n \mathbf{3} = \beta(c) \text{ for some } c \in V$$

$$e_1 \dots e_{|x|} = x$$

$$H_j = \{X\}^+, \text{ for all } j = 1, \dots, m - |x| - 6n - 3$$

D. If

$$b \in F$$

then

$$K_6 := K_6 \cup \{ \{ \delta(\mathbf{b}_1) \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \dots \{ \delta(\mathbf{b}_n) \}^+ \{ \mathbf{3} \}^+ \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \mathbf{H}_{m-2n-1} \mathbf{T}^+ \mathbf{T}^* \},$$

where

$$b_i \in \{0, 1\}, \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$b_1 \mathbf{3} \dots b_n \mathbf{3} = \beta(b)$$

$$H_j = \{X\}^+, \text{ for all } j = 1, \dots, m - |\beta(b)| - 1.$$

Main Idea:

Observe that G derives no sentential form that contains a subword consisting of two identical nonterminals. Considering this essential property, examine the construction of G to see that every successful derivation simulates a successful derivation in Q . To give an insight into this simulation in greater detail, assume that Q makes this derivation step

$$avb \Rightarrow vxc$$

according to $(a, b, x, c) \in g$. By using selectors constructed in A , G simulates $avb \Rightarrow vxc$ by making the following three steps.

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(b)2\beta(av)X^{m-|\beta(ba)|-2}2 &\Rightarrow \beta(ba)2\beta(ba)2\beta(v)X^{m-|\beta(ba)|-2}2 \\ &\Rightarrow \delta(\beta(ba))\beta(c)2\beta(vx)X^{m-|\beta(bacx)|-2}2 \\ &\Rightarrow \beta(c)2\beta(vx)X^{m-4n-2}2. \end{aligned}$$

By analogy with these steps, G uses selectors constructed in B and C to simulate Q 's derivation steps that produce terminals appearing in the generated word. Finally, it uses a selector constructed in D to complete the simulation. As a result, $L(Q) = L(G)$.

Formal Proof (Sketch):

Hereafter, by

$$u \Rightarrow v [i]$$

in G , where $i \in \{1, \dots, 6\}$, this proof symbolically expresses that G makes $u \Rightarrow v$ by using a component from K_i . For brevity, the rest of this proof omits some details, which the reader can easily fill in. Examine K to see that in G , every successful derivation, $2 \Rightarrow^+ v$ with $v \in T^+$, has this form

$$\begin{array}{l}
 2 \Rightarrow x_0 \\
 \Rightarrow x_{11} [1] \Rightarrow x_{12} [2] \Rightarrow x_{13} [3] \\
 \Rightarrow x_{21} [1] \dots \\
 \dots \\
 \Rightarrow x_{t1} [1] \Rightarrow x_{t2} [2] \Rightarrow x_{t3} [3] \\
 \Rightarrow y_1 [1] \Rightarrow y_2 [2] \Rightarrow y_3 [4] \\
 \Rightarrow z_{11} [1] \Rightarrow z_{12} [2] \Rightarrow z_{13} [5] \\
 \Rightarrow z_{21} [1] \dots \\
 \dots \\
 \Rightarrow z_{h1} [1] \Rightarrow z_{h2} [2] \Rightarrow z_{h3} [5] \\
 \Rightarrow r [1] \Rightarrow v [6],
 \end{array}$$

where

(i) $x_0 = \beta(b)2\beta(a)X^{m-|\beta(ba)|-2}2$ with $ab = R$

(ii) t is a non-negative integer, and for all $i = 0, \dots, t$, there exist $(a, b, v, c) \in g$ and $u \in V^*$ so that

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x_{i1} = \beta(ba)2\beta(u)X^{m-|\beta(ba)|-2}2 \\
 x_{i2} = \delta(\beta(ba))\beta(c)2\beta(uv)X^{m-|\beta(bacv)|-2}2 \\
 x_{i3} = \beta(c)2\beta(uv)X^{m-2|\beta(c)|-2}2
 \end{array}$$

(iii) there exist $w \in V^*$ and $(a, b, vu, c) \in g$ where $v \in V^*$ and $u \in T^+$, so that

$$\begin{array}{l}
 y_1 = \beta(ba)2\beta(w)X^{m-|\beta(ba)|-2}2 \\
 y_2 = \delta(\beta(ba))\beta(c)2\beta(wv)uX^{m-|\beta(bacv)u|-2}2 \\
 y_3 = \beta(c)2\beta(wv)uX^{m-2|\beta(c)|-2}2
 \end{array}$$

(iv) h is a non-negative integer, and for all $i = 0, \dots, h$, there exist $u \in V^*$, $w \in T^+$, and $(a, b, v, c) \in g$ with $v \in T^*$ so that

$$\begin{array}{l}
 z_{i1} = \beta(ba)2\beta(u)wX^{m-|\beta(ba)|-2}2 \\
 z_{i2} = \delta(\beta(ba))\beta(c)2\beta(u)wvX^{m-|\beta(bac)v|-2}2 \\
 z_{i3} = \beta(c)2\beta(u)wvX^{m-2|\beta(c)|-2}2
 \end{array}$$

(v) $r = \delta(\beta(b))vX^{m-|\beta(c)|-1}$ with $b \in F$.

Observe that there also exists the following derivation

$$\begin{aligned}
 R &\Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(x_{13}))) \dots \Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(x_{h3}))) \\
 &\Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(y_3))) \\
 &\Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(x_{13}))) \dots \Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(x_{h3}))) \\
 &\Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(r)))
 \end{aligned}$$

in Q . Notice that $\rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(r))) = v$. Thus, if in $G, 2 \Rightarrow^* v$ with $v \in T^+$, then $v \in L(Q)$; therefore,

$$L(G) - \{\varepsilon\} \subseteq L(Q) - \{\varepsilon\}.$$

Notice that in Q , every successful derivation, $R \Rightarrow^* vf$ with $v \in T^+$ and $f \in F$, has this form

$$\begin{aligned}
 R &\Rightarrow^* d_1 d_2 \dots d_n y_1 c_1 \\
 &\Rightarrow d_2 \dots d_n y_1 y_2 c_2 \\
 &\dots \\
 &\Rightarrow d_n y_1 y_2 \dots y_n c_n \\
 &\Rightarrow y_1 y_2 \dots y_n f,
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 &n \text{ is a natural number} \\
 &d_k \in V, \text{ for } k = 1, \dots, n \\
 &v = y_1 y_2 \dots y_n \\
 &y_1 \neq \varepsilon \\
 &y_i \in T^*, \text{ for } i = 2, \dots, n \\
 &c_j \in W - F, \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, n \\
 &f \in F.
 \end{aligned}$$

Consider any derivation expressed in this way in Q , and demonstrate that there also exists

$$2 \Rightarrow^+ v$$

in G (a detailed version of this demonstration is left to the reader). Thus

$$L(Q) - \{\varepsilon\} \subseteq L(G) - \{\varepsilon\}.$$

As $L(G) - \{\varepsilon\} \subseteq L(Q) - \{\varepsilon\}$ and $L(Q) - \{\varepsilon\} \subseteq L(G) - \{\varepsilon\}$,

$$L(Q) - \{\varepsilon\} = L(G) - \{\varepsilon\}.$$

Because G has only the six nonterminals $0, 1, 2, 3, X$, and Y , Lemma 1 holds. \square

Theorem 1 *The family of languages generated by six-nonterminal multi-continuous grammars coincides with the family of recursively enumerable languages.*

Proof: Obviously, every language generated by a six-nonterminal multi-continuous grammar represents a recursively enumerable language. The rest of this proof demonstrates that every recursively enumerable language is generated by a six-non terminal multi-continuous grammar.

Let L be a recursively enumerable language. Then, there exists a queue grammar, Q , such that $L(Q) = L$ (see Theorem 2.1 in [2]). By Lemma 1, there exists a six-nonterminal multi-continuous grammar,

$$G = (T \cup \{0, 1, 2, 3, X, Y\}, P, 2, T, K),$$

satisfying $L(Q) - \{\varepsilon\} = L(G) - \{\varepsilon\}$. Consider the six-nonterminal multi-continuous grammar, G' , defined as

$$G' = (T \cup \{0, 1, 2, 3, X, Y\}, P \cup P', 2, T, K)$$

with

$$P' = \{2 \rightarrow \varepsilon\} \text{ if } \varepsilon \in L(Q), \text{ and } P' = \emptyset \text{ if } \varepsilon \notin L(Q).$$

Observe that $L(G) - \{\varepsilon\} = L(G') - \{\varepsilon\}$. Because $L(Q) - \{\varepsilon\} = L(G) - \{\varepsilon\}$, $L(Q) - \{\varepsilon\} = L(G') - \{\varepsilon\}$. Furthermore, by the definition of P' , $\varepsilon \in L(Q)$ if and only if $\varepsilon \in L(G')$. Therefore,

$$L(G') = L(Q).$$

As $L(Q) = L$,

$$L = L(G').$$

Therefore, this theorem holds. □

Consider i -nonterminal multi-continuous grammars, where $i = 1, \dots, 5$. What is their generative power?

Acknowledgement: The author is indebted to the anonymous referee for useful comments concerning the first version of this paper.

References

- [1] Dassow, J. and Paun, G.: *Regulated Rewriting in Formal Language Theory*. Springer, New York, 1989.
- [2] Kleijn, H. C. M. and Rozenberg, G.: "On the Generative Power of Regular Pattern Grammars," *Acta Informatica*, Vol. 20, pp. 391-411, 1983.
- [3] Kleijn, H. C. M. and Rozenberg, G.: "Multi Grammars," *International Journal of Computer Mathematics*, Vol.12, pp. 177-201, 1983.
- [4] Meduna, A. : "Six-Nonterminal Multi-Sequential Grammars Characterize the Family of Recursively Enumerable Languages," *International Journal of Computer Mathematics*, Vol. 65, pp. 179-189, 1997.

- [5] Meduna, A. : On the Number of Nonterminals in Matrix Grammars with Leftmost Derivations, in Păun, G. and Salomaa, A. (ed.), *New Trends in Formal Languages*, Lecture Notes of Computer Science 1218, 1997, 27 - 38
- [6] Paun, Gh. : "Six Nonterminals are Enough for Generating each R. E. Language by a Matrix Grammar," *International Journal of Computer Mathematics*, Vol. 15, pp. 23-37, 1984.

Received May, 1997