

# Descriptive Complexity of Multi-Continuous Grammars

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

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

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

Define the homomorphism,  $\iota$ , from  $(\Sigma \cup \Sigma)^*$  to  $\Sigma^*$  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  $\Sigma$  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  $\Sigma, P, S$ , 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

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

$\Pi_k \in \{W^+ : W \subseteq \Sigma\}$  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  $-\beta$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $\sigma$ , and  $\delta$ :

1. Define an injection  $\beta$  from  $(V \cup W)$  to  $(\{0, 1\}\{3\})^n$ . In the standard manner, extend  $\beta$  so it is defined from  $(V \cup W)^*$  to  $((\{0, 1\}\{3\})^n)^*$ .  $\beta^{-1}$  represents the inverse of  $\beta$ .
2. Let  $\rho$  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  $\sigma$  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  $\delta$  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

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 := & K_1 \cup \{\{b_1\}^+\{3\}^+ \dots \{b_n\}^+\{3\}^+\{2\}^+\{a_1\}^+\{3\}^+ \dots \{a_n\}^+\{3\}^+ \\ & (\{0, 1, 3\} \cup T)^* \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \mathbf{H}_{m-|\beta(ba)|-2} \{2\}^+\}, \end{aligned}$$

where

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

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

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

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

$$K_2 := K_2 \cup \{ \{b_1\}^+ \{3\}^+ \dots \{b_n\}^+ \{3\}^+ \{a_1\}^+ \{3\}^+ \dots \{a_n\}^+ \{3\}^+ \{2\}^+ \\ (\{0, 1, 3\} \cup T)^* \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \mathbf{H}_{m - |\beta(\mathbf{ba})| - 2} \{2\}^+ \},$$

where

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

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

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

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

$$K_3 := K_3 \cup \{ \delta\{b_1\}^+ \{3\}^+ \dots \delta\{b_n\}^+ \{3\}^+ \delta\{a_1\}^+ \{3\}^+ \dots \\ \delta\{a_n\}^+ \{3\}^+ \{c_1\}^+ \{3\}^+ \dots \\ \{c_n\}^+ \{3\}^+ \{2\}^+ (\{0, 1, 3\})^* \{d_1\}^+ \{3\}^+ \dots \\ \{d_{|x|}\}^+ \{3\}^+ \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \mathbf{H}_{m - |\beta(\mathbf{bacx})| - 2} \{2\}^+ \},$$

where

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$K_4 := K_4 \cup \{ \delta\{b_1\}^+ \{3\}^+ \dots \delta\{b_n\}^+ \{3\}^+ \delta\{a_1\}^+ \{3\}^+ \dots \\ \delta\{a_n\}^+ \{3\}^+ \{c_1\}^+ \{3\}^+ \dots \\ \{c_n\}^+ \{3\}^+ \{2\}^+ \{0, 1, 3\}^* \{d_1\}^+ \{3\}^+ \dots \\ \{d_{|x|}\}^+ \{3\}^+ \{e_1\}^+ \dots \\ \{e_{|y|}\}^+ \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \dots \mathbf{H}_{m - |\beta(\mathbf{bacx})y| - 2} \{2\}^+ \},$$

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

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

where

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 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.

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

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

$$\begin{array}{l}
 2 \Rightarrow x_0 \\
 \Rightarrow x_{1_1} [1] \Rightarrow x_{1_2} [2] \Rightarrow x_{1_3} [3] \\
 \Rightarrow x_{2_1} [1] \dots \\
 \dots \\
 \Rightarrow x_{t_1} [1] \Rightarrow x_{t_2} [2] \Rightarrow x_{t_3} [3] \\
 \Rightarrow y_1 [1] \Rightarrow y_2 [2] \Rightarrow y_3 [4] \\
 \Rightarrow z_{1_1} [1] \Rightarrow z_{1_2} [2] \Rightarrow z_{1_3} [5] \\
 \Rightarrow z_{2_1} [1] \dots \\
 \dots \\
 \Rightarrow z_{h_1} [1] \Rightarrow z_{h_2} [2] \Rightarrow z_{h_3} [5] \\
 \Rightarrow r [1] \Rightarrow v [6],
 \end{array}$$

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

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x_{i_1} = \beta(ba)2\beta(u)X^{m-|\beta(ba)|-2}2 \\
 x_{i_2} = \delta(\beta(ba))\beta(c)2\beta(uv)X^{m-|\beta(bacv)|-2}2 \\
 x_{i_3} = \beta(c)2\beta(uv)X^{m-2|\beta(c)|-2}2
 \end{array}$$

(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

$$\begin{array}{l}
 z_{i_1} = \beta(ba)2\beta(u)wX^{m-|\beta(ba)|-2}2 \\
 z_{i_2} = \delta(\beta(ba))\beta(c)2\beta(u)wvX^{m-|\beta(bac)v|-2}2 \\
 z_{i_3} = \beta(c)2\beta(u)wvX^{m-2|\beta(c)|-2}2
 \end{array}$$

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

Observe that there also exists the following derivation

$$\begin{aligned}
 R &\Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(x_{1_3}))) \dots \Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(x_{h_3}))) \\
 &\Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(y_3))) \\
 &\Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(x_{1_3}))) \dots \Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(x_{h_3}))) \\
 &\Rightarrow \rho(\beta^{-1}(\sigma(r)))
 \end{aligned}$$

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-nonterminal 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.  $\square$

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

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