Solution to Homework 9

Background. In Problem 7, we considered a grammar with rules $N \rightarrow L$, $N \rightarrow NL$, $N \rightarrow ND$, $L \rightarrow a$, $D \rightarrow 0$, and $D \rightarrow 1$.

Tasks:

1. Use a general algorithm to construct a (non-deterministic) pushdown automaton that corresponds to context-free grammar described in Problem 7.

2. Show, step by step, how the word $a01$ will be accepted by this automaton.

Solution to Task 1. By using the general algorithm, we get the following pushdown automaton:
Solution to Task 2. Let us show how this is done on the example of the word +110 generated by the above automaton:

\[ N \rightarrow ND \rightarrow NDD \rightarrow LDD \rightarrow aDD \rightarrow a0D \rightarrow a01. \]

To make this derivation clearer, let us mark the variables corresponding to different transitions by subscripts:

\[ N_1 \rightarrow N_2D_1 \rightarrow N_3D_1D_2 \rightarrow L_1DD \rightarrow aD_1D_2 \rightarrow a0D_2 \rightarrow a01. \]

Let us now trace what our pushdown automaton will do.
We start in the state $s$ with an empty stack:
The only thing we can do when in the state $s$ is push the dollar sign into the stack and get to the intermediate state $i$:

The contents of the stack is as follows:

$\$
When we are in the state $i$, the only thing we can do is push the starting variable $N$ into the stack and go into the working state $w$:

Now, the stack contains the starting variable on top of the dollar sign:

$\text{N} \\
\text{\$}$
Now that we are in the working state, we can start following the rules that were used to derive the word $a01$. The first rule was $N \rightarrow ND$, or, to be precise, $N_1 \rightarrow N_2D_1$. As we have mentioned, this rule is implemented in two steps:

- first, we pop $N$ and push the last symbol of the right-hand side – in this cases, the symbol $D$ into the stack, getting into the auxiliary state $a_2$;
- then, we push $N$ into the stack, and go back to the working state $w$.

Let us illustrate this step by step.
First, we pop $N$, push $D$, and go into the state $a_2$:

The stack will now have $D$ instead of the original $N$:

```
D
$```

Then, we push $N$ into the stack and go back to working state $w$:

The stack will now have $N$ on top of its previous contents:

$$
\begin{array}{c}
N \\
D \\
$ \\
\end{array}
$$
Now, the symbol $N$ is on top of the stack, so we again use the rule $N \rightarrow ND$: first, we replace $N$ by $D$ and go to the state $a_2$, then push $N$ and go back to the state $w$:

Now, the stack will have $D$ instead of $N$:
and

Now, the stack will have $N$ on top:

```
N
D
D
$  
```
Next, we use the rule $N \rightarrow L$, i.e., replace $N$ with $L$ on top of the stack:

Now, the stack will have $L$ on top:

$$
\begin{array}{c}
L \\
D \\
D \\
$ \\
\end{array}
$$
Next, we use the rule $L \rightarrow a$, i.e., replace $L$ with $a$ on top of the stack:

Now, the stack will have $a$ on top:
Now, we have a terminal symbol $a$ on top of the stack. In this case, the only think we can do is use the rule $a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$: read $a$ and pop $a$ from the top of the stack:

Now, the stack will have the following form:

$$
\begin{array}{c}
D \\
D \\
\$ \\
\end{array}
$$
Next, we use the rule $D \to 0$, i.e., replace $D$ with 0 on top of the stack:

Now, the stack will have 0 on top:
Now, we have a terminal symbol 0 on top of the stack, so the only thing we can do is to use the rule 0, 0 → ε, i.e., read 0 and pop 0 from the stack:

Now, the stack will have the following form:
Then, we use the rule $D \rightarrow 1$, i.e., we replace $D$ with 1 on top of the stack:

Now, the stack will have 1 on top:
Now, there is a terminal symbol $1$ on top of the stack, so we have no other choice but to use the rule $1, 1 \rightarrow \varepsilon$:

Now, the stack will only have the dollar sign:
We read all the symbols, and the only symbol in the stack is the dollar sign. We can thus go to the final state:

The stack is now empty. We are in the final state with the empty stack, so the word $a01$ is accepted.
A graphical description of the transitions.

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<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>i</th>
<th>w</th>
<th>a_2</th>
<th>w</th>
<th>a_2</th>
<th>w</th>
<th>w</th>
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<td>D</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>$</td>
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<table>
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<th>read</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>state</td>
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<td>w</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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