Journal of Automata, Languages and Combinatorics 8 (2003) 3, 499–519 © Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg

COMPUTING RASTER IMAGES FROM GRID PICTURE GRAMMARS¹

FRANK DREWES

Department of Computing Science, Umeå University S-90187 Umeå, Sweden e-mail: drewes@cs.umu.se

SIGRID EWERT

School of Computer Science, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg Private Bag 3, 2050 Wits, South Africa e-mail: sigrid@cs.wits.ac.za

RENATE KLEMPIEN-HINRICHS and HANS-JÖRG KREOWSKI

Department of Computer Science, University of Bremen P.O. Box 330440, D-28334 Bremen, Germany e-mail: {rena,kreo}@informatik.uni-bremen.de

ABSTRACT

While a 2-dimensional grid picture grammar may generate pictures (defined as subsets of the unit square) with arbitrarily small details, only a finite number of them can be made visible as raster images for any given raster. We present an algorithm based on bottom-up tree automata which computes the set of all raster images of the pictures generated by a given grid picture grammar.

Keywords: Formal languages, picture grammars, syntactic picture generation, image analysis, grid grammars, raster images

1. Introduction

Picture-generating devices, such as iterated function systems, chain-code picture grammars, turtle geometry picture grammars, cellular automata, random context picture grammars and collage grammars, specify in general infinite picture sequences or languages. See, for example, [10, 3, 9, 11, 7, 6]. Although they are intended and

¹Research partially supported by the EC TMR Network GETGRATS (General Theory of Graph Transformation Systems), the ESPRIT Basic Research Working Group APPLIGRAPH (Applications of Graph Transformation), and the *Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft* (*DFG*) under grant no. Kr-964/6-1, and carried out while the second author was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bremen with a scholarship from the National Research Foundation, South Africa.