

# CS 302.1 - Automata Theory

Lecture 05

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# Grammars

**(Grammar)** Formally, a *Grammar*  $G$  is a 4-tuple  $(V, \Sigma, P, S)$  such that

- $V$  is the set of **Variables**
- $\Sigma$  is the set of **Terminals** (disjoint from  $V$ )
- $P$  is the set of production **Rules**  $[(V \cup \Sigma)^* V (V \cup \Sigma)^* \rightarrow (V \cup \Sigma)^*]$
- $S$  is the **Start Variable** [ The variable in the LHS of the first rule is generally the start variable ]

Eg: Consider the grammar  $G$

$X \rightarrow 1X$

$X \rightarrow 0Y$

$Y \rightarrow 0X$

$Y \rightarrow 1Y$

$Y \rightarrow \epsilon$

**X is the start variable of the Grammar.** Variables:  $\{X, Y\}$ , Terminals:  $\{0, 1\}$

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## Grammars can be used to derive strings.

The sequence of **substitutions** (using the rules of  $G$ ) required to obtain a certain string is called a **derivation**.

- Begin the **derivation** from the **Start variable**.
- Replace any variable according to a rule. Repeat until only terminals remain.
- The generated string is **derived by the grammar**.

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$Y \rightarrow 1Y$

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$Y \rightarrow \epsilon$

$X$ : Start Variable

$\{X, Y\}$ : Variables

$\{0, 1\}$ : Terminals

The following is a derivation

$X \rightarrow 1X \rightarrow 11X \rightarrow 110Y \rightarrow 1101Y \rightarrow \mathbf{1101}$

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- To show that a string  $w \in L(G)$ , we show that there exists a **derivation ending up in  $w$** . The fact that  $w$  can be derived using the rules of  $G$ , is expressed as  $S \xRightarrow{*} w$ .
- The **language of the grammar**,  $L(G)$  is  $\{w \in \Sigma^* \mid S \xRightarrow{*} w\}$

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$X \rightarrow 1X$   
 $X \rightarrow 0Y$   
 $Y \rightarrow 1Y$   
 $Y \rightarrow 0X$   
 $Y \rightarrow \epsilon$

**The string  $1101 \in L(G)$  because there exists the following derivation**

$X \rightarrow 1X \rightarrow 11X \rightarrow 110Y \rightarrow 1101Y \rightarrow 1101$

# Grammars for Regular Languages

**Regular grammar:** If the *rules* of the underlying grammar  $G$  are of the form

$$Var \rightarrow Ter \mathbf{Var}$$

$$Var \rightarrow Ter$$

$$Var \rightarrow \epsilon$$

then the language of the grammar is **regular**. Also known as **Right-linear grammar** (a single variable to the right of terminals in the RHS).

## Right linear Grammar to DFA

Eg: Consider the grammar  $G$

$$X \rightarrow 1X$$

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$$Y \rightarrow \epsilon \text{ (indicates that } Y \text{ is the final state)}$$

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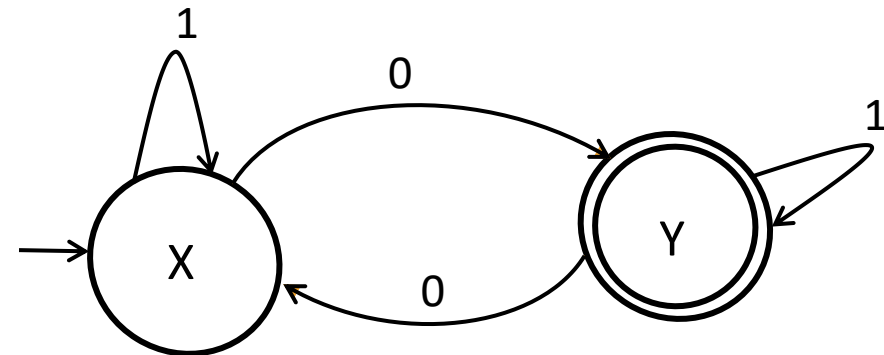
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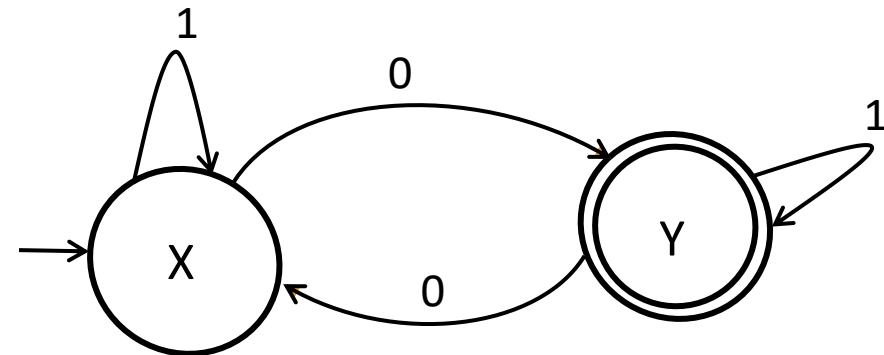
$$X \rightarrow 0Y$$

$$Y \rightarrow 1Y$$

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A **run** in a DFA model is analogous to a **derivation** in a linear grammar.



For the string **1101**:

**Derivation:**  $X \rightarrow 1X \rightarrow 11X \rightarrow 110Y \rightarrow 1101Y \rightarrow 1101$ . So  $1101 \in L(G)$

**Run:**  $X \xrightarrow{1} X \xrightarrow{1} X \xrightarrow{0} Y \xrightarrow{1} Y$  (Accepting Run and so  $1101 \in L(M)$ ).



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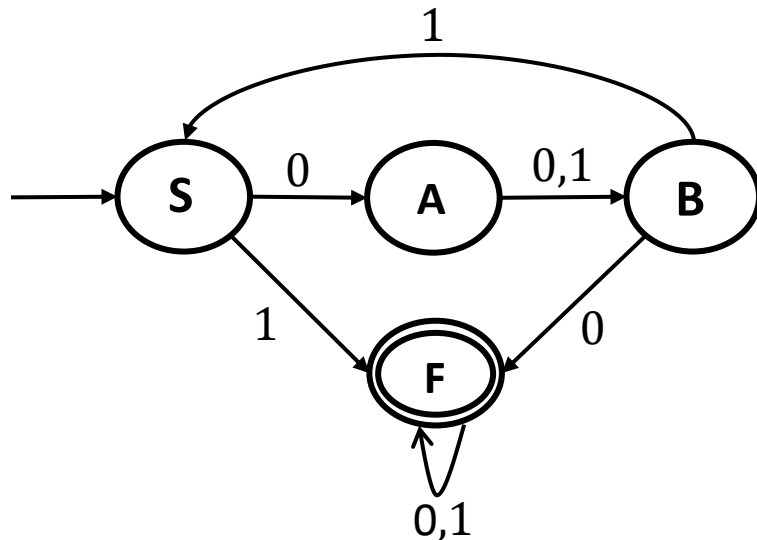
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## DFA to Right linear Grammar

Consider the following DFA  $M$



The right-linear grammar  $G$  for  $M$

$$S \rightarrow 0A | 1F$$

$$A \rightarrow 0B | 1B$$

$$B \rightarrow 0F | 1S$$

$$F \rightarrow 0F | 1F | \epsilon$$

# Grammars for Regular Languages

Right-linear grammar  $\equiv$  DFA  $\equiv$  NFA  $\equiv$  Regular Expressions

**Left linear grammar:** If the *rules* of the underlying grammar  $G$  are of the form

$$Var \rightarrow \mathbf{Var} Ter$$

$$Var \rightarrow Ter$$

$$Var \rightarrow \epsilon$$

then such a grammar is called **Left-linear** (a single variable to the left of terminals in the RHS).

**Right linear grammars are equivalent to Left-linear grammar** (We won't be proving it here)

# Grammars for Regular Languages

**Right-linear grammar  $\equiv$  DFA  $\equiv$  NFA  $\equiv$  Regular Expressions**

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**Right linear grammars are equivalent to Left-linear grammar** (We won't be proving it here)

**Right-linear grammars and Left-linear grammars generate Regular Languages.**

Note that mixing left-linear grammars and right-linear grammars in the same set of rules **won't generate regular languages**. (e.g:  $S \rightarrow aX, X \rightarrow Sb, S \rightarrow \epsilon$ )

**Left-linear grammar  $\equiv$  Right-linear grammar  $\equiv$  DFA  $\equiv$  NFA  $\equiv$  Regular Expressions**

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$$[ (V \cup T)^* V (V \cup T)^* \rightarrow (V \cup T)^* ]$$

[ The variable in the LHS of the first rule is generally the start variable ]

**Context-Free Grammars:** If the *rules* of the underlying grammar  $G$  are of the form

$$V \rightarrow (V \cup T)^*$$

then such a grammar is called **Context-Free**.

Any language generated by a context-free grammar is called a ***context-free language***.

Immediately we find that the *rules* are less restrictive than left-linear grammars and right-linear grammars. Context free grammars allow

$$Var \rightarrow Anything$$

$$Var \rightarrow \text{String of Variables} \mid \text{String of Terminals} \mid \text{Strings of Variables and Terminals} \mid \epsilon$$

# Context free Grammars

**Context-Free Grammars:** If the *rules* of the underlying grammar  $G$  are of the form

$$V \rightarrow (VUT)^*$$

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$$Var \rightarrow Anything$$

$$Var \rightarrow String\ of\ Variables | String\ of\ Terminals | Strings\ of\ Variables\ and\ Terminals | \epsilon$$

- So Left linear grammars and Right linear grammars are also context-free grammars.
- **Regular languages  $\subset$  Context Free Languages.**

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Consider the Grammar  $G$  with the following rules:

$$S \rightarrow 0S1$$

$$S \rightarrow \epsilon$$

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What is the language generated by this grammar?



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Consider the Grammar  $G$  with the following rules:

$$S \rightarrow 0S1|\epsilon$$

What is the language generated by this grammar?

Strings that can be derived from  $G$ :

$$S \rightarrow \epsilon$$

$$\{\epsilon\}$$

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What is the language generated by this grammar?

Strings that can be derived from  $G$ :

$$S \rightarrow 0S1 \rightarrow 01$$

$$\{\epsilon, 01\}$$

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Consider the Grammar  $G$  with the following rules:

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What is the language generated by this grammar?

Strings that can be derived from  $G$ :

$$S \rightarrow 0S1 \rightarrow 00S11 \rightarrow 0011$$

$$\{\epsilon, 01, 0011\}$$

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$$\{\epsilon, 01, 0011, 000111\}$$

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Strings that can be derived from  $G$ :

$$\{\epsilon, 01, 0011, 000111, 0^4 1^4, \dots\}$$

What is the language generated by this grammar?

$$L(G) = \{\omega | \omega = 0^n 1^n, n \geq 0\}$$

**So although  $L(G)$  is not regular, it is context-free.**

# Context free Grammars

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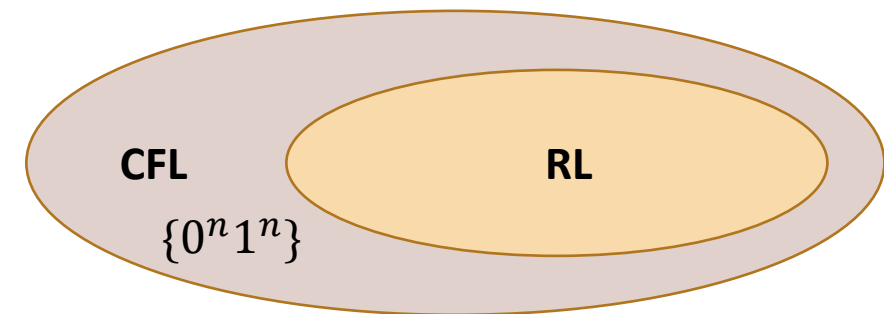
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Consider the Grammar  $G$  with the following rules:

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Consider the Grammar  $G$  with the following rules:

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Strings that can be derived by  $G$ :

$$S \rightarrow 0S1 \rightarrow 00S11 \dots$$

$$\{\epsilon, 01, 0011, \dots 0^n 1^n\}$$



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Strings that can be derived by  $G$ :

$$S \rightarrow \mathbf{0S1} \rightarrow \mathbf{0SS1} \rightarrow \mathbf{00S1S1} \rightarrow \mathbf{001S1} \rightarrow \mathbf{0010S11} \rightarrow \mathbf{001011}$$

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**Show that the string  $010101 \in L(G)$ .**

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Strings that can be derived by  $G$ :

$$S \rightarrow \mathbf{SS} \rightarrow \mathbf{SSS} \rightarrow \mathbf{0S1SS} \rightarrow 0S1\mathbf{0S1S} \rightarrow 0S10S1\mathbf{0S1} \rightarrow 010101$$

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**What is  $L(G)$ ?**

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You can see what the language is, if you replace **0** with ( and **1** with )

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$$\{\epsilon, ()\}$$

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**So,  $L(G)$  is the language of all strings of properly nested parentheses.**

$$L(G) = \{\omega | \omega \text{ is a correctly nested parenthesis}\}$$

# Context free Grammars

## Constructing CFG corresponding to a Language.

There is no fixed recipe for doing this. Requires some level of creativity.

Some tips might come in handy:

- Check if the CFL is a union of simpler languages. If  $L(G) = L(G_1) \cup L(G_2)$  and  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are known. If  $S_1$  is the start variable for  $G_1$  and  $S_2$  is the start variable for  $G_2$  then the rules of  $G$ :

$$S \rightarrow S_1 | S_2$$

$$S_1 \rightarrow \dots$$

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- Grammars with rules such as  $S \rightarrow aSb$  help generate strings where the corresponding machine would need unbounded memory to *remember* the number of  $a$ 's needed to verify that there are an equal number of  $b$ 's. This was not possible with regular expressions/linear grammars.

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## Constructing CFG corresponding to a Language.

- Check if the CFL is a union of simpler languages.
- Grammars with rules such as  $S \rightarrow aSb$  help generate where the portions of  $a$  and  $b$  are equal.

Example: Construct the grammar  $G$  such that  $L(G) = \{\omega | \omega \text{ has equal number of 0's and 1's}\}$

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Example: Construct the grammar  $G$  such that  $L(G) = \{\omega \mid \omega \text{ has equal number of 0's and 1's}\}$

- The first thing to notice is that  $L_1 = \{0^n 1^n, n \geq 0\} \subset L(G)$ . We know the grammar for this language.
- Any string  $\omega \in L_1$  has a series of 0's followed by an equal number of 1's.
- Again, consider  $L_2$  to comprise all strings that start with a series of 1's followed by an equal number of 0's, i.e.

$$L_2 = \{1^n 0^n, n \geq 0\}$$

- The grammar for  $L_2$  is similar to that of  $L_1$ : replace the 0's with 1's and vice versa. Importantly,  $L_2 = \{1^n 0^n, n \geq 0\} \subset L(G)$  also.
- Also,  $L_1 \cup L_2 \subset L(G)$

# Context free Grammars

## Constructing CFG corresponding to a Language.

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- So  $L'(G') = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\} \cup \{1^n 0^n \mid n \geq 0\} \subset L(G)$
- Grammar for  $L_1$ :  $S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid \epsilon$
- Grammar for  $L_2$ :  $S \rightarrow 1S0 \mid \epsilon$
- Grammar for  $L_1 \cup L_2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow S_1 \mid S_2 \\ S_1 &\rightarrow 0S_1 1 \mid \epsilon \\ S_2 &\rightarrow 1S_2 0 \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$



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- **Is that all? Is  $L_1 \cup L_2 = L(G)$ ?**  $L_1 \cup L_2$  contains all strings that have equal number 0's followed by equal number of 1's or vice versa.

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- What about strings such as  $s_1 = 0101 \dots$  and  $s_2 = 1010 \dots$ ? For this we need to be able to go from

$$0S_1 1 \rightarrow 0S_2 1 \rightarrow 01S_2 01 \rightarrow \dots$$

# Context free Grammars

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- Grammar for  $L_1 \cup L_2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow S_1 | S_2 \\ S_1 &\rightarrow 0S_11 | \epsilon \\ S_2 &\rightarrow 1S_20 | \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

- What about strings such as  $s_1 = 0101 \dots$  and  $s_2 = 1010 \dots$ ? Add transitions  $S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  and  $S_2 \rightarrow S_1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow S_1 | S_2 \\ S_1 &\rightarrow 0S_11 | \epsilon \\ S_2 &\rightarrow 1S_20 | \epsilon \\ S_1 &\rightarrow S_2 \\ S_2 &\rightarrow S_1. \end{aligned}$$

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- Can't we simplify this? We can replace  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  with a single Start variable as follows:  $S \rightarrow 0S1 | 1S0 | \epsilon$
- What kind of strings does the grammar generate? Well if we use Rule  $S \rightarrow 0S1$ ,  $m$  times, we get to rules such as  $0^m S 1^m$ .
- Now applying the rule  $S \rightarrow 1S0$ ,  $k$  times, we get  $0^m 1^k S 0^k 1^m$ .
- So the strings we obtain are of the form:

$$\{0^{m_1} 1^{n_1} 0^{m_2} 1^{n_2} \dots 0^{n_2} 1^{m_2} 0^{n_1} 1^{m_1}\} \cup \{1^{m_1} 0^{n_1} 1^{m_2} 0^{n_2} \dots 1^{n_2} 0^{m_2} 1^{n_1} 0^{m_1}\} \in L(G)$$

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- More generally, what about strings that are a concatenation of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ ?

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- More generally, what about strings that are a concatenation of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ ?
- Adding transitions like  $S \rightarrow S_1 S_2$  incorporates this.

# Context free Grammars

Constructing CFG corresponding to a Language.

Example: Construct the grammar  $G$  such that  $L(G) = \{\omega \mid \omega \text{ has equal number of 0's and 1's}\}$

$$S \rightarrow S_1 | S_2 | S_1 S_2 | S_2 S_1$$

$$S_1 \rightarrow 0S_11 | \epsilon$$

$$S_2 \rightarrow 1S_20 | \epsilon$$

$$S_1 \rightarrow S_2$$

$$S_2 \rightarrow S_1$$

- Simplify this further.

$$G: S \rightarrow SS | 0S1 | 1S0 | \epsilon$$



# Parse trees for CFG

Consider the Grammar  $G$  with the following rules:

$$S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid SS \mid \epsilon$$

One derivation:

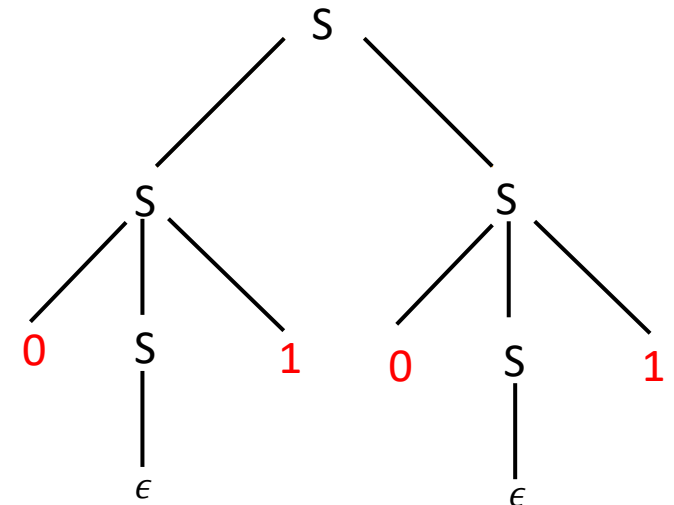
$$S \rightarrow \mathbf{SS} \rightarrow \mathbf{0S1S} \rightarrow 0S1\mathbf{0S1} \rightarrow \mathbf{0101}$$

**Parse trees:** These are ordered trees that provide alternative representations of the derivation of a grammar.

**Parsing** is a useful technique for compilers (Analysis of syntax eg: take sequence of tokens as input & output parse trees which provides structural representation of the input while checking for the correct syntax).

## Features:

- The root node is the **Start variable**
- Branch out to nodes of the next level by following any of the rules of the grammar
- Stop when all the leaf nodes of the tree are terminals
- Read the terminals in the leaves from left to right.
- If  $w$  is the string obtained, then  $S \xRightarrow{*} w$  and  $w \in L(G)$



# Parse trees for CFG

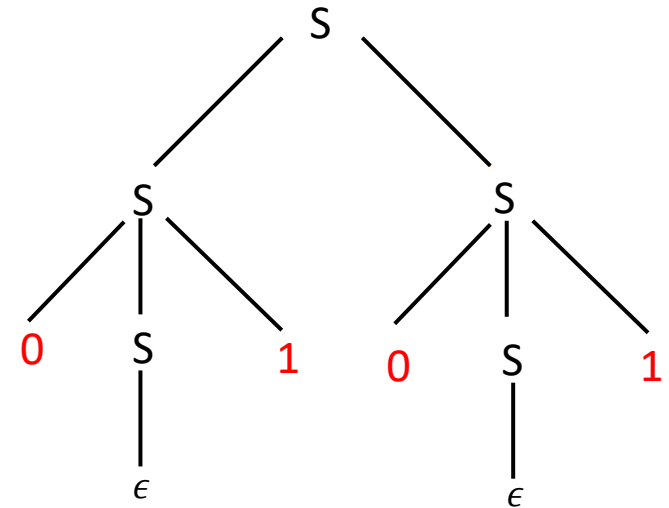
Consider the Grammar  $G$  with the following rules:

$$S \rightarrow 0S1 | SS | \epsilon$$

Consider the following derivations for 0101:

1.  $S \rightarrow \mathbf{SS} \rightarrow \mathbf{0S1S} \rightarrow 0S1\mathbf{0S1} \rightarrow \mathbf{0101}$
2.  $S \rightarrow \mathbf{SS} \rightarrow \mathbf{0S1S} \rightarrow 01S \rightarrow 01\mathbf{0S1} \rightarrow \mathbf{0101}$
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- The parse trees for all these derivations are the same.



# Parse trees for CFG

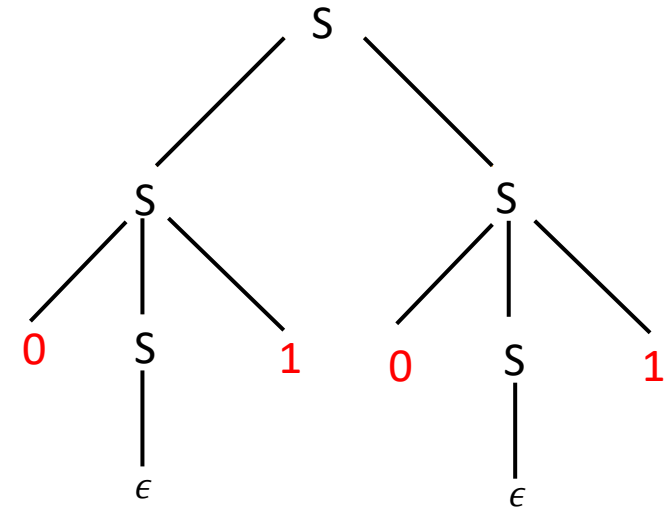
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- The parse trees for all these derivations are the same.
- If a string is derived by replacing only the leftmost variable at every step, then the derivation is a **leftmost derivation**. (e.g. derivation 2.)
- .....rightmost variable = **rightmost derivation** (e.g. derivation 3.)
- Derivations may not always be **leftmost** or **rightmost** (e.g. derivation 1.)



# Parse trees for CFG

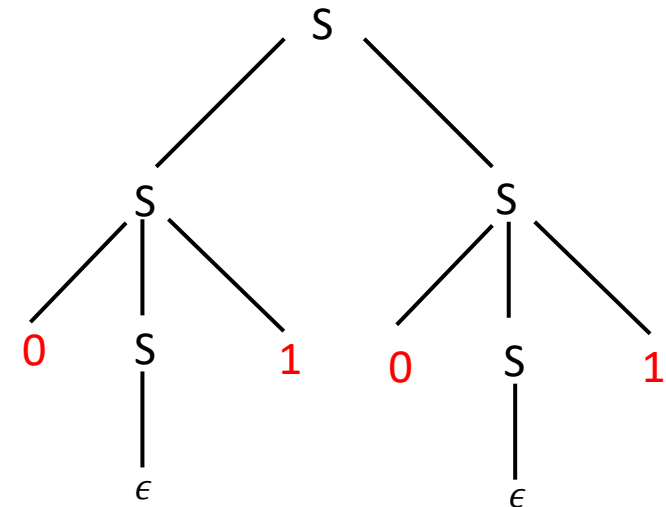
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**Ambiguous grammars:** A CFG  $G$  is said to be **ambiguous** if there exists  $\omega \in L(G)$ , such that there are **two or more leftmost derivations for  $\omega$**  (or equivalently two or more rightmost derivations) or equivalently **two or more parse trees for  $\omega$** .

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Show that Grammar  $G$  is ambiguous, i.e.  $\exists \omega \in L(G)$ , such that there are two or more parse trees for  $\omega$ .

Consider the string  $\omega = 010101$ :

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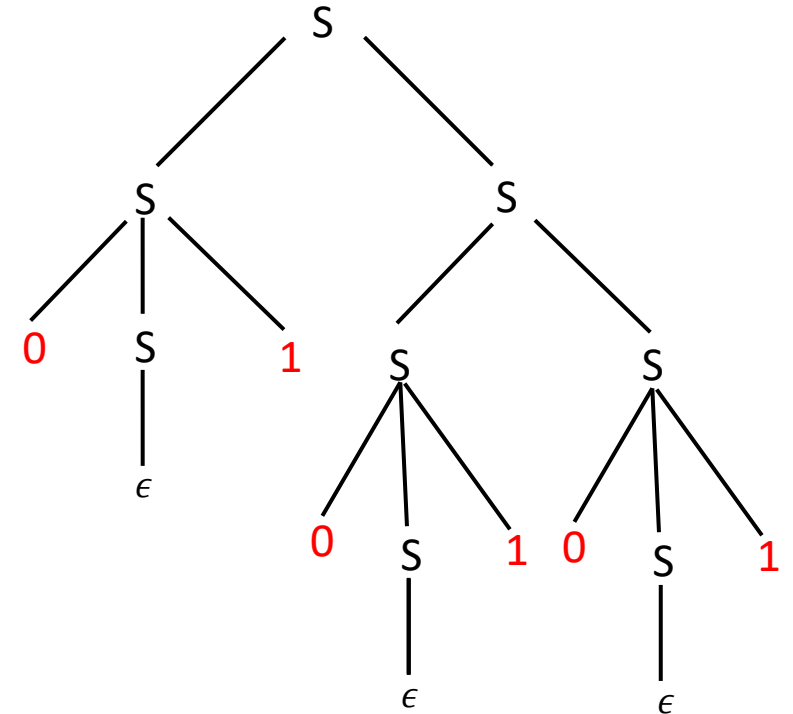
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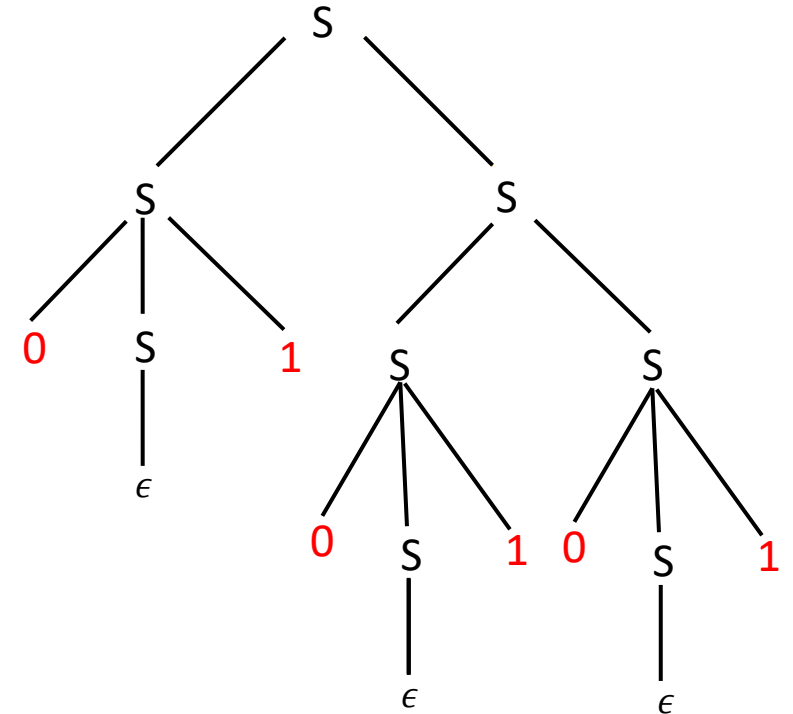
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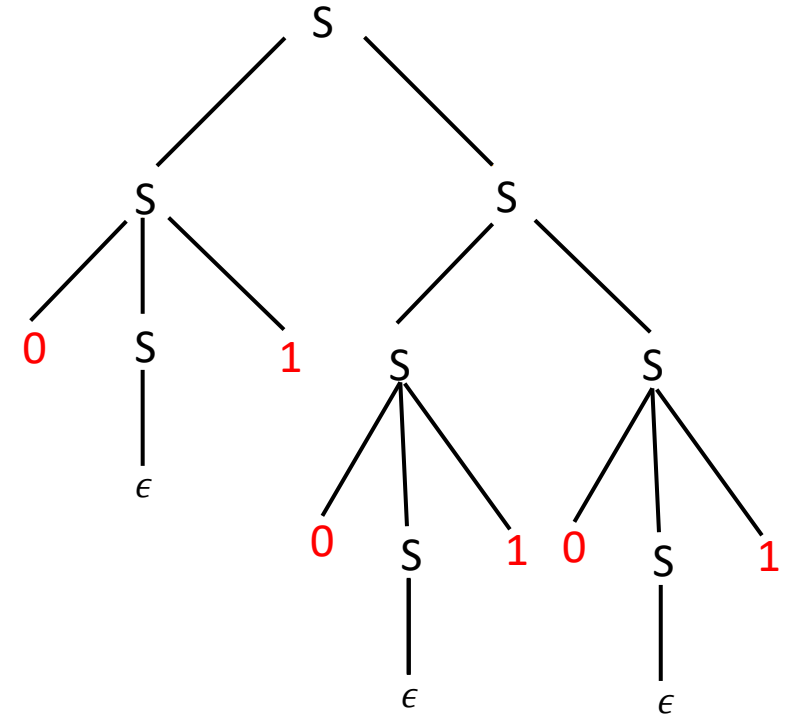
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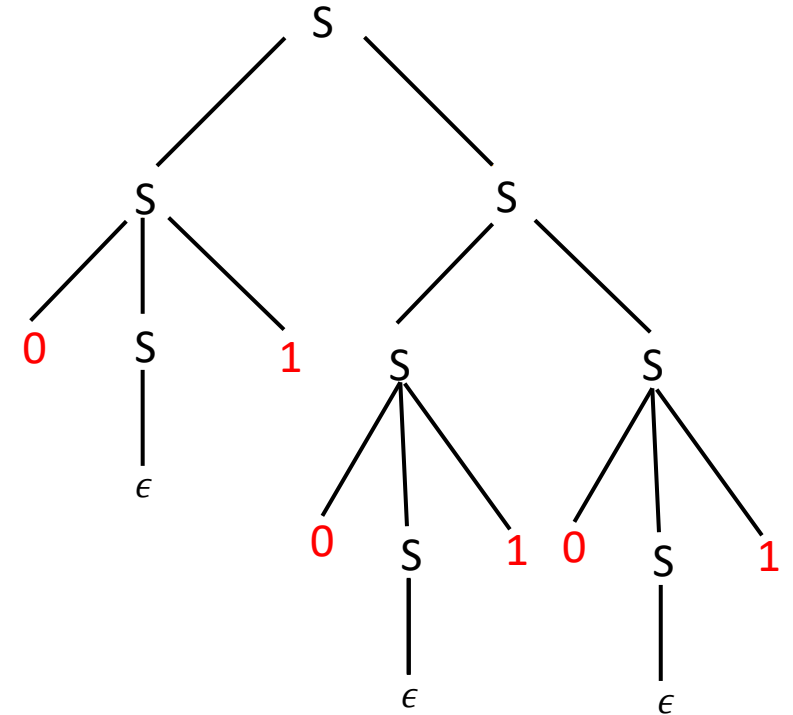
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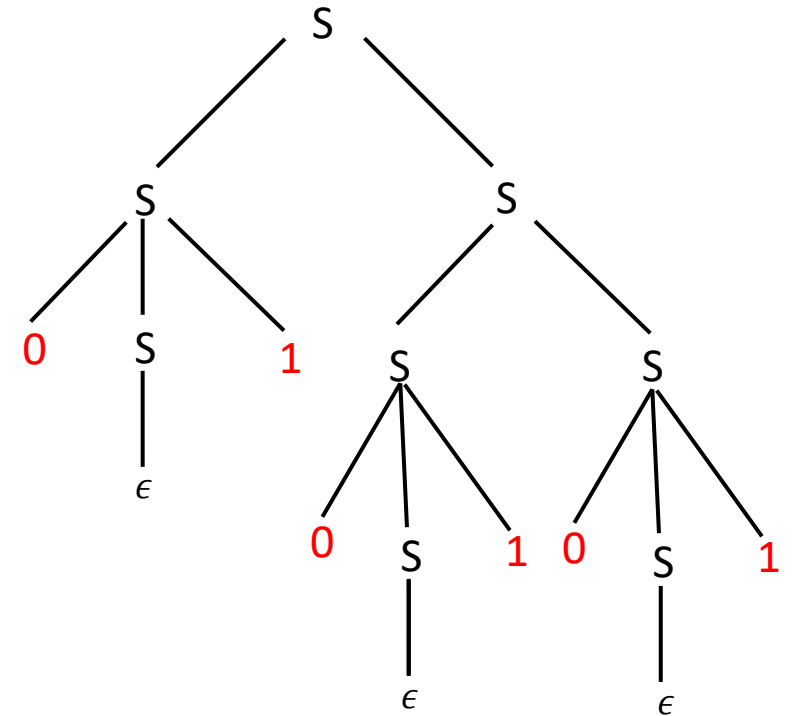
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Leftmost Derivation:  $S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S \rightarrow 01S$

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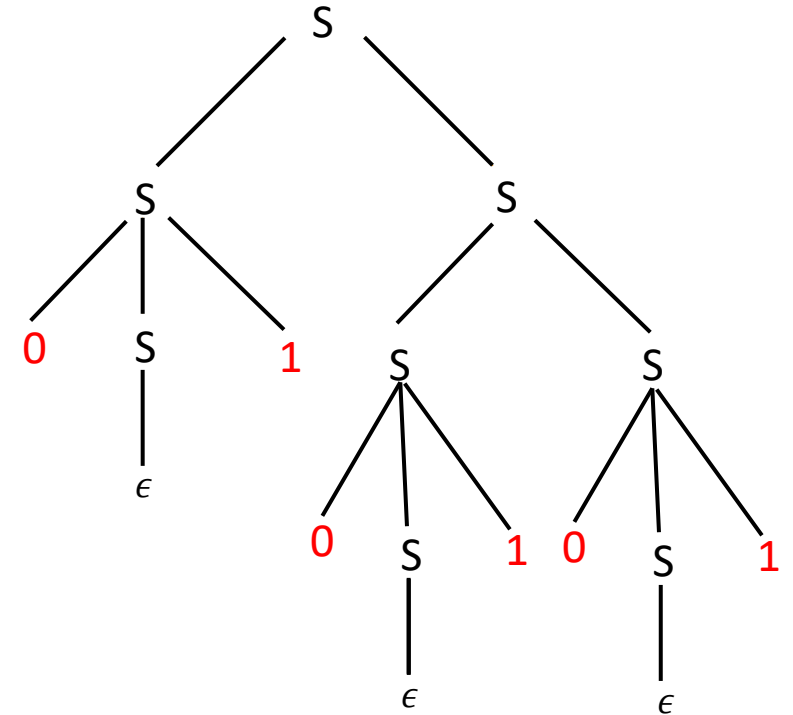
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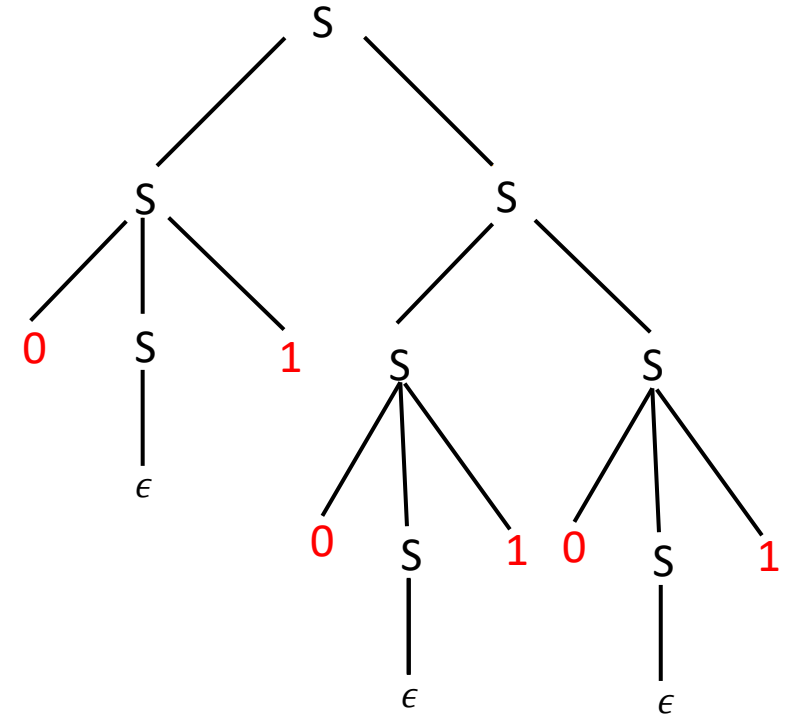
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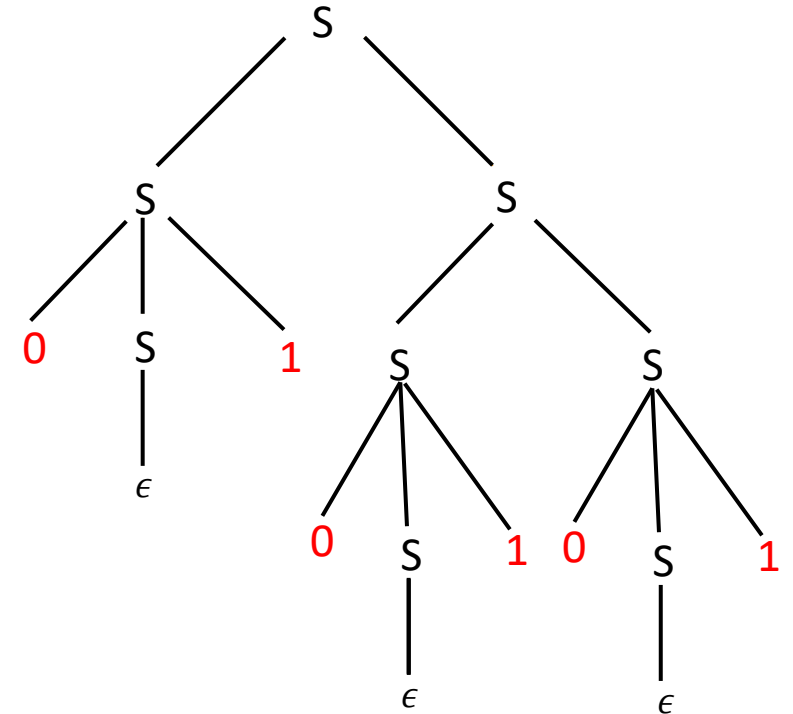
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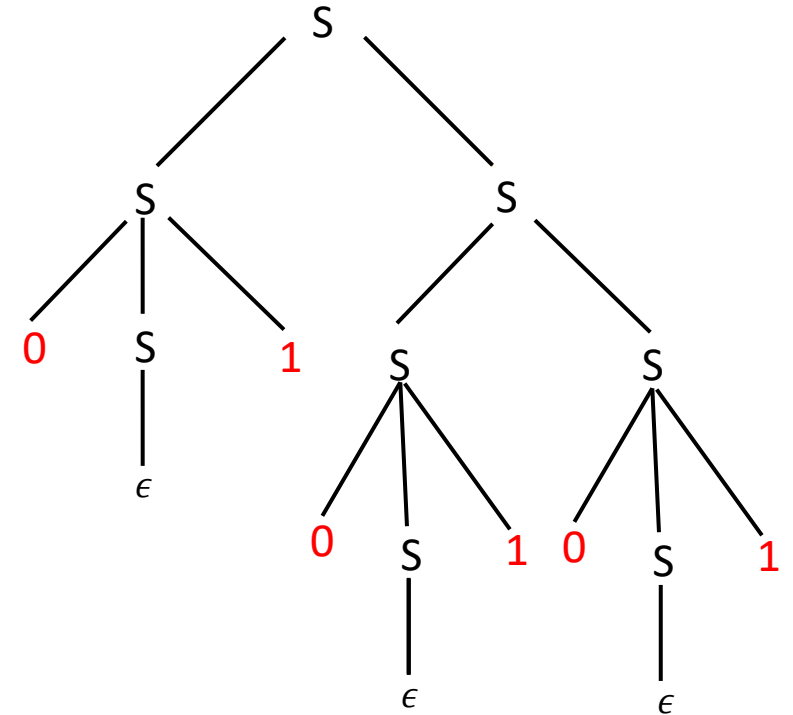
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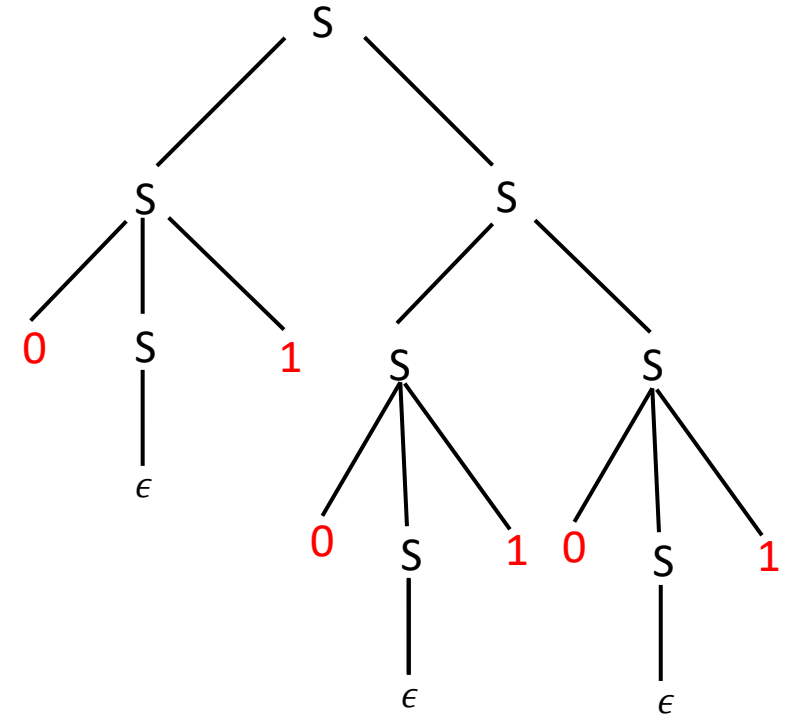
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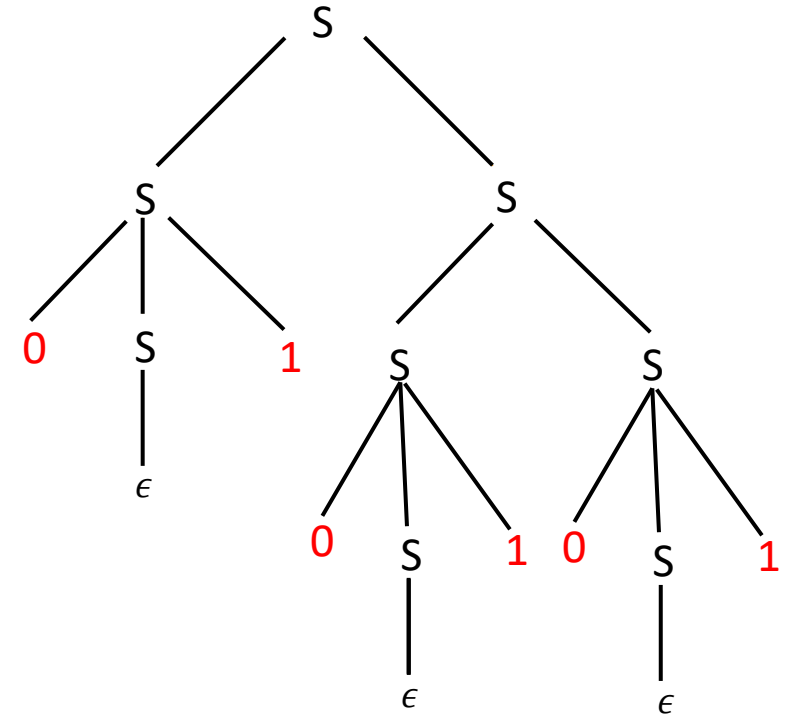
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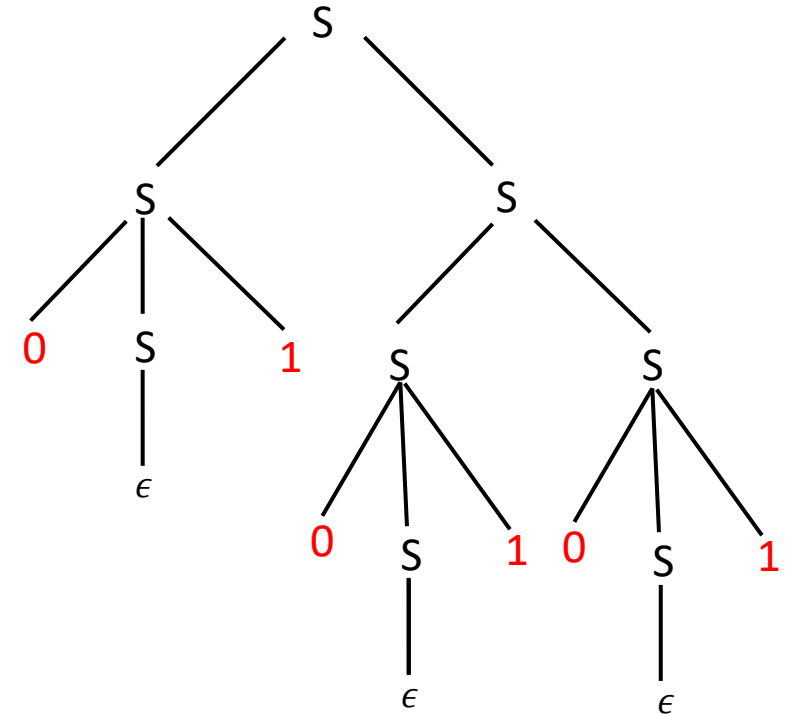
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# Parse trees for CFG

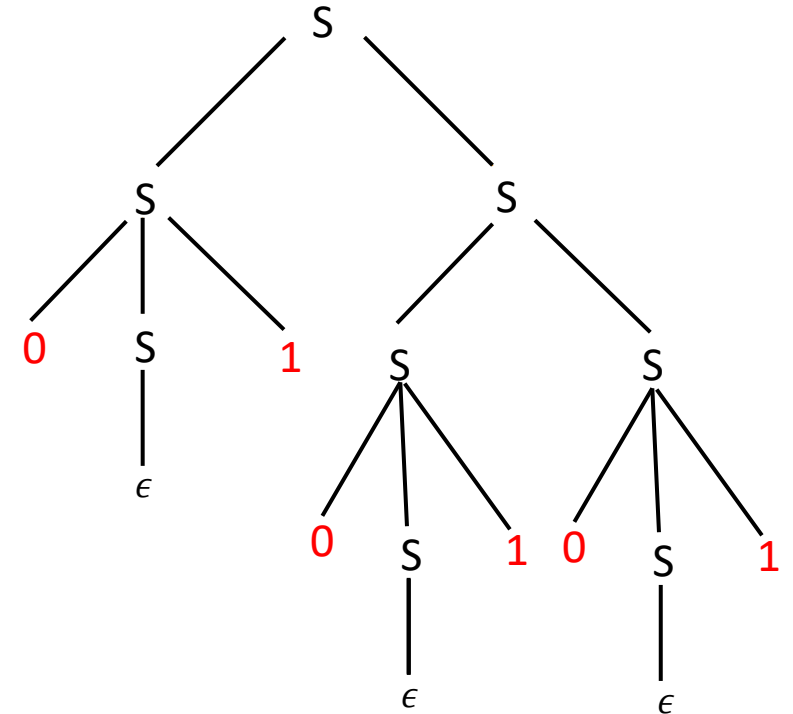
**Ambiguous grammars:** A CFG  $G$  is said to be **ambiguous** if there exists  $\omega \in L(G)$ , such that there are **two or more leftmost derivations for  $\omega$**  (or equivalently two or more rightmost derivations) or equivalently **two or more parse trees for  $\omega$** .

Consider the Grammar  $G$  with the following rules:  $S \rightarrow 0S1|SS|\epsilon$

Show that Grammar  $G$  is ambiguous, i.e.  $\exists \omega \in L(G)$ , such that there are two or more parse trees for  $\omega$ .

Consider the string  $\omega = 010101$ :

- Show that there exist two different parse trees for **010101**.
- Show that there exist two leftmost derivations for **010101**.



Leftmost Derivation:  $S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S \rightarrow 01S \rightarrow 01SS \rightarrow 010S1S \rightarrow 0101S \rightarrow 01010S1$

# Parse trees for CFG

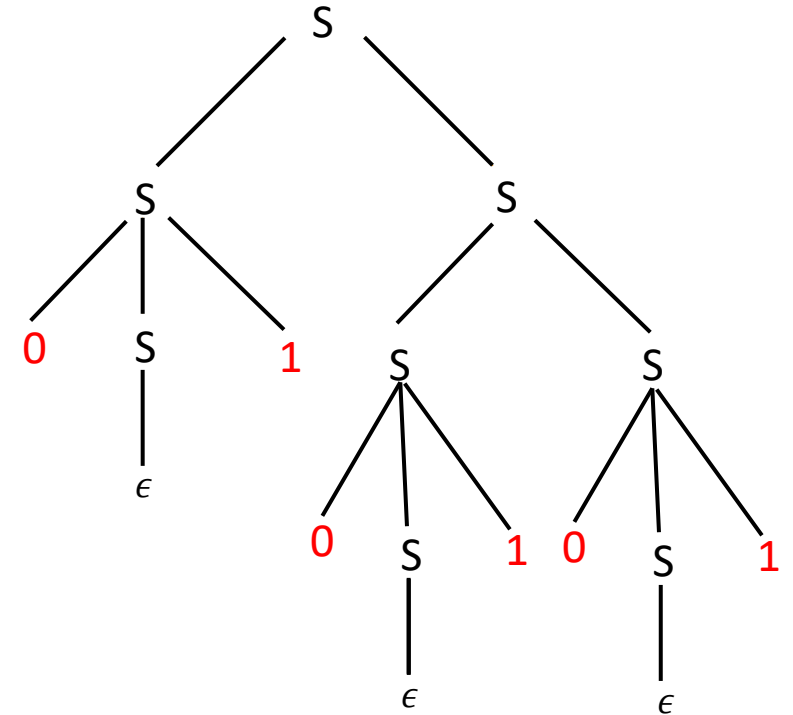
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Leftmost Derivation:  $S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S \rightarrow 01S \rightarrow 01SS \rightarrow 010S1S \rightarrow 0101S \rightarrow 01010S1 \rightarrow 010101$

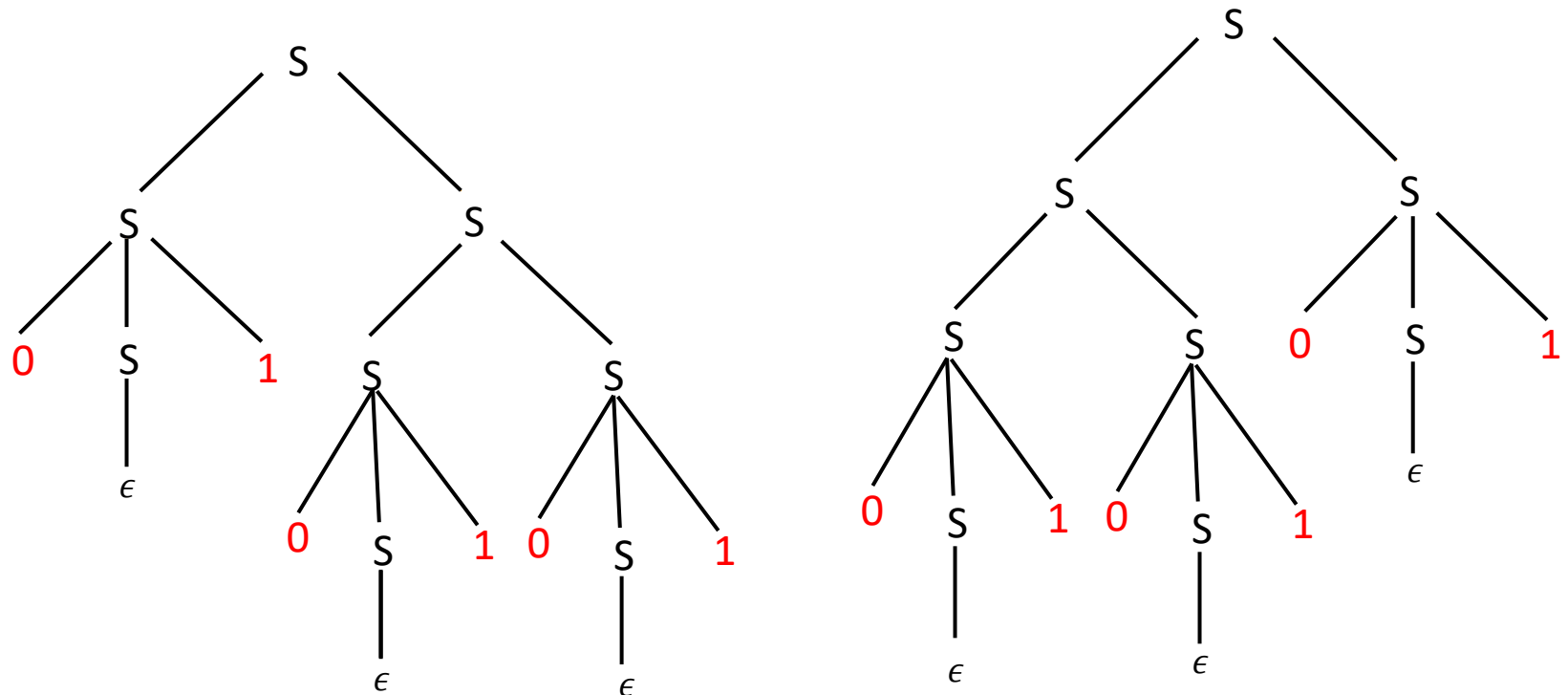
# Parse trees for CFG

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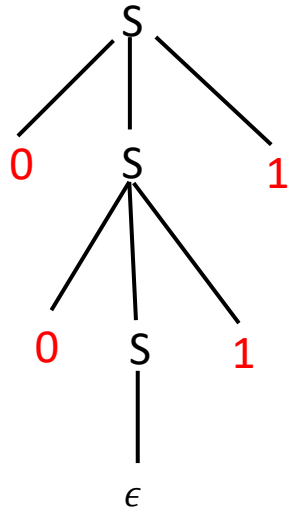


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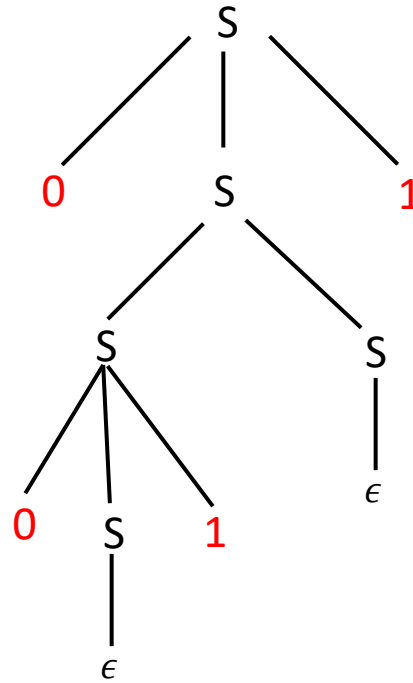
# Parse trees for CFG

Show that the Grammar  $G$  with the following rules:  $S \rightarrow 0S1|SS|\epsilon$  is ambiguous.

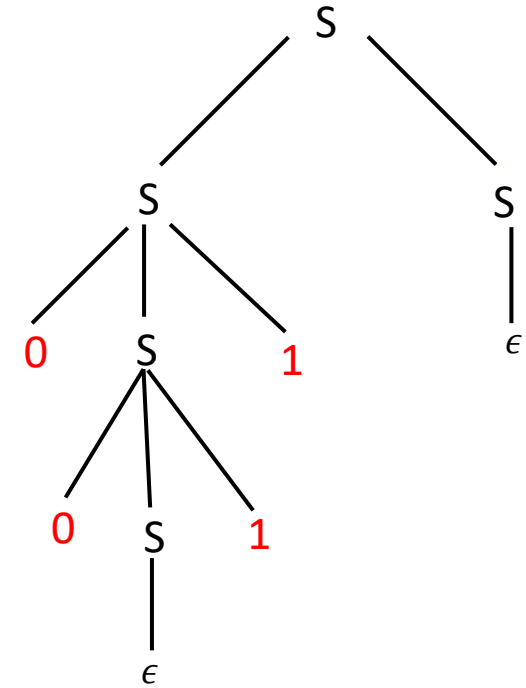
Consider string  $\omega = 0011$



LD:  $S \rightarrow 0S1 \rightarrow 00S11 \rightarrow 0011$



LD:  $S \rightarrow 0S1 \rightarrow 0SS1 \rightarrow 00S1S1 \rightarrow 001S1 \rightarrow 0011$



LD:  $S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow 0S1S \rightarrow 00S11S \rightarrow 0011S \rightarrow 0011$

# Ambiguity

**Unique** structures are important. For example:

- The syntax of a programming language can be represented by a CFG.
- A compiler
  - translates the code written in the programming language into a form that is suitable for execution.
  - checks if the underlying programming language is syntactically correct.
- Parse trees are data structures that represent such structures.
- Parse tree for the code helps analyze the syntax. So ambiguity might lead to different interpretations and hence, different outcomes for the same code.

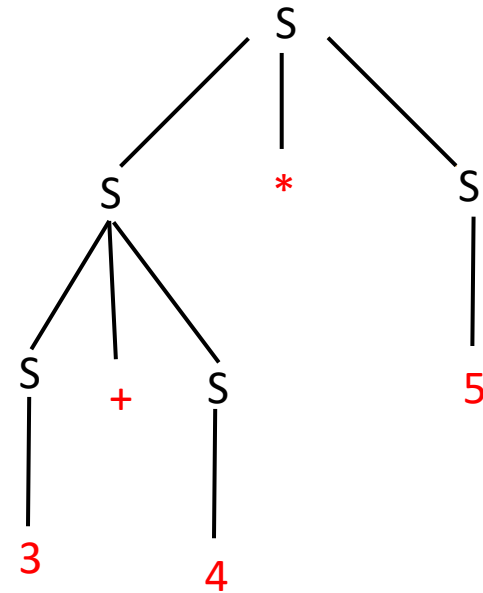
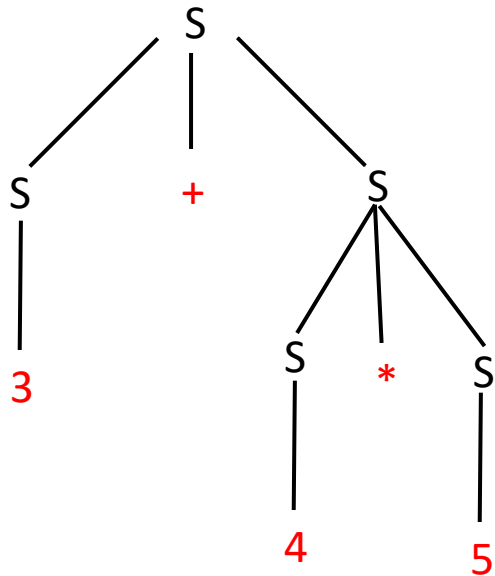
**Ambiguity may not be desirable.**

# Ambiguity

Ambiguity may not be desirable.

Consider the grammar:  $S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9$

and the derivation of the string  $3 + 4 * 5$



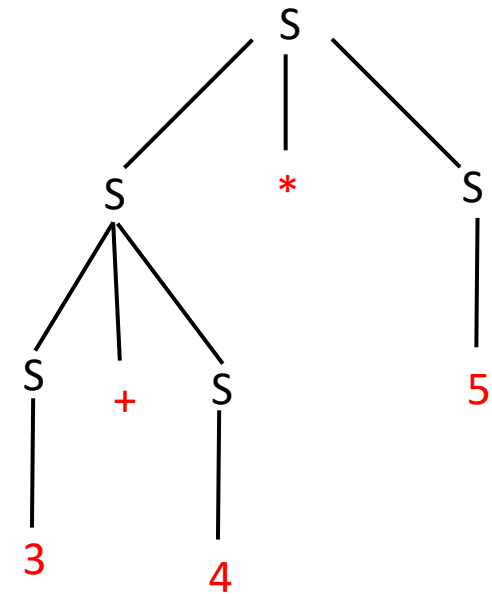
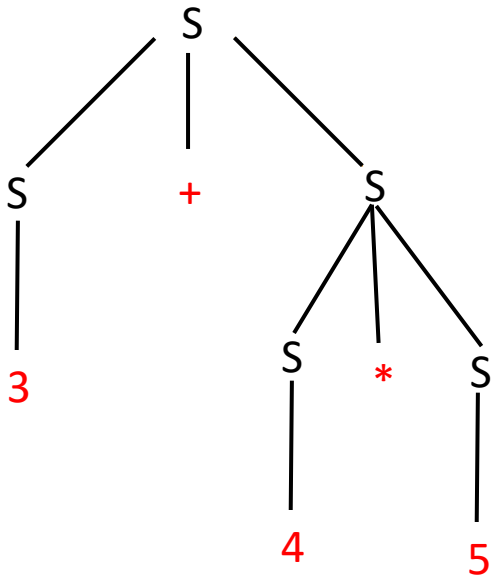
- The grammar contains no information on the precedence relations of the various arithmetic operations.
- The grammar may group  $+$  before  $*$

# Ambiguity

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Consider the grammar:  $S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9$

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- What will be the result obtained from each of these *parsings*?

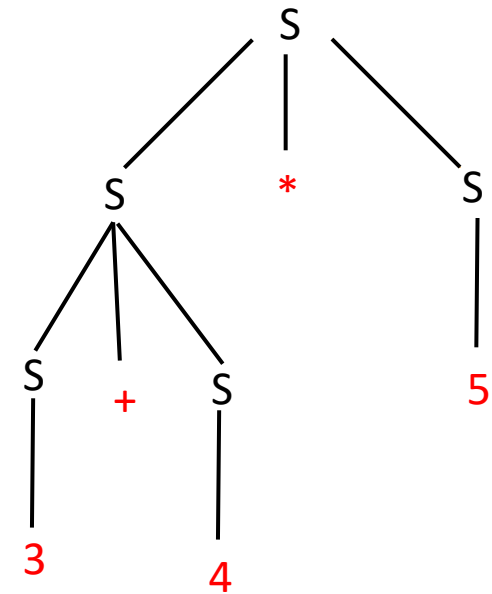
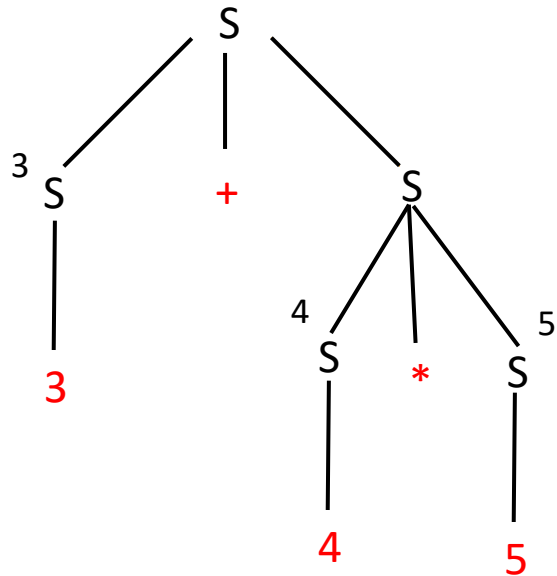


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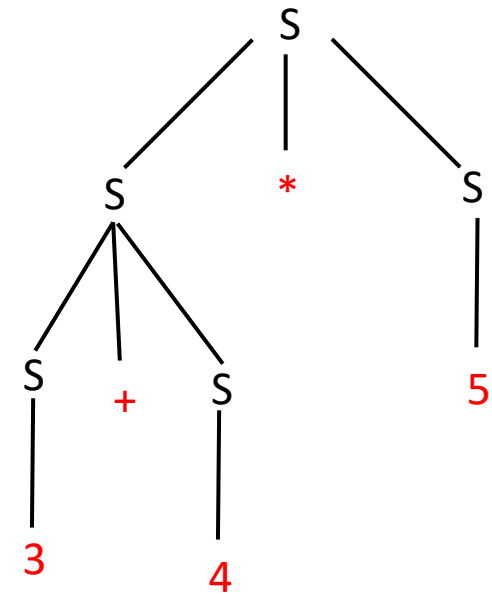
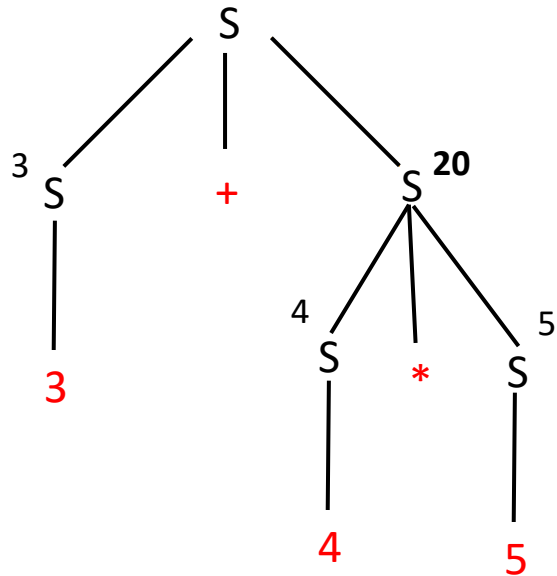
- If the compiler compiles the left parse tree

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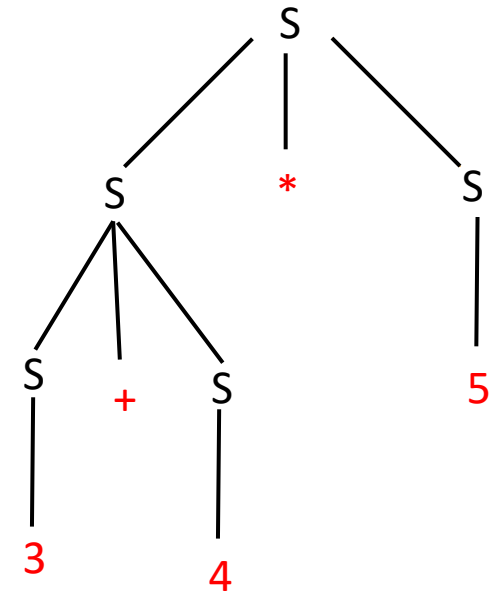
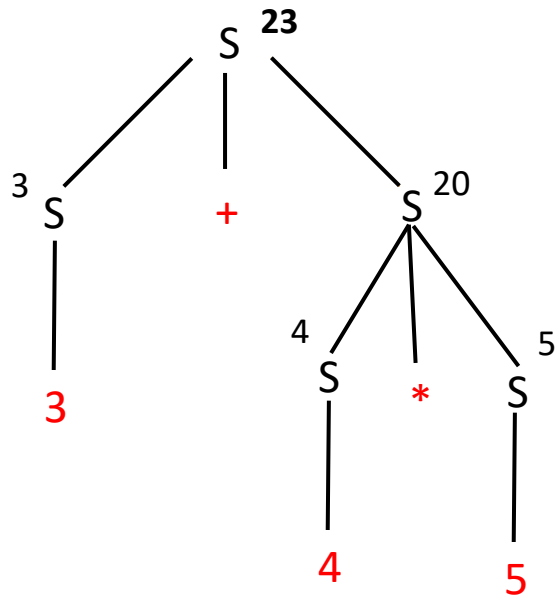
- If the compiler compiles the left parse tree

# Ambiguity

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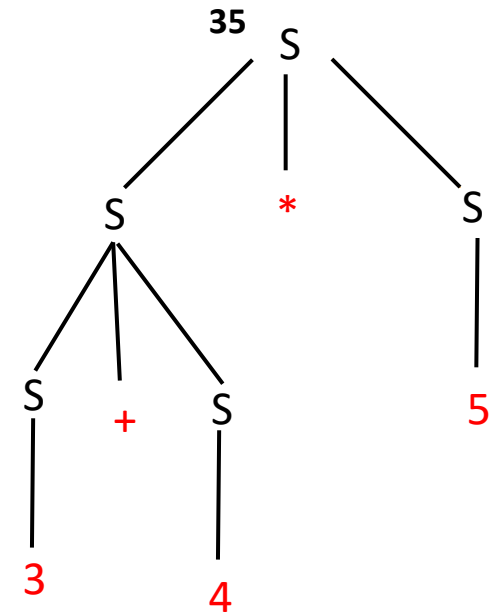
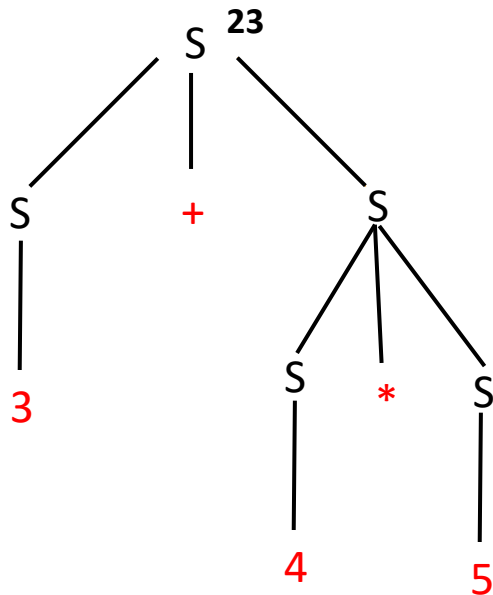
- If the compiler compiles the left parse tree. Outcome = **23**

# Ambiguity

Ambiguity may not be desirable.

Consider the grammar:  $S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9$

and the derivation of the string  $3 + 4 * 5$



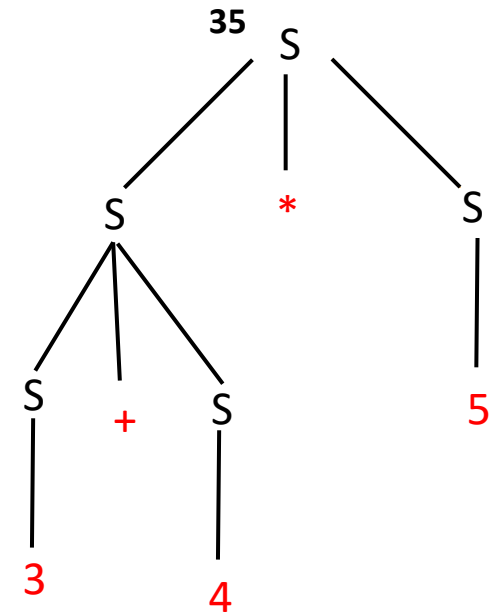
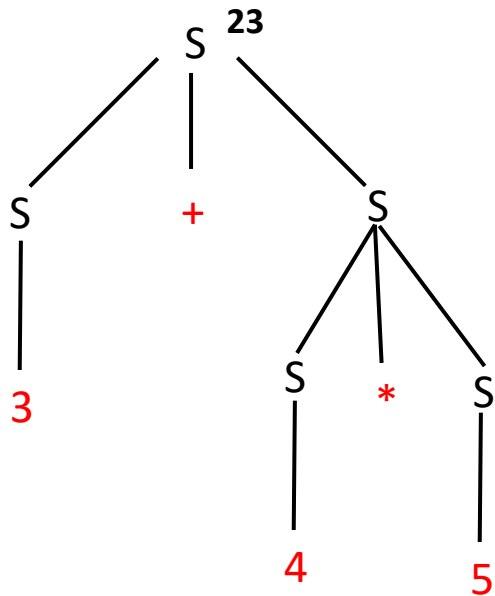
- If the compiler compiles the **right** parse tree. Outcome = 35

# Ambiguity

Ambiguity may not be desirable.

Consider the grammar:  $S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9$

and the derivation of the string  $3 + 4 * 5$



- How can we get rid of this ambiguity?

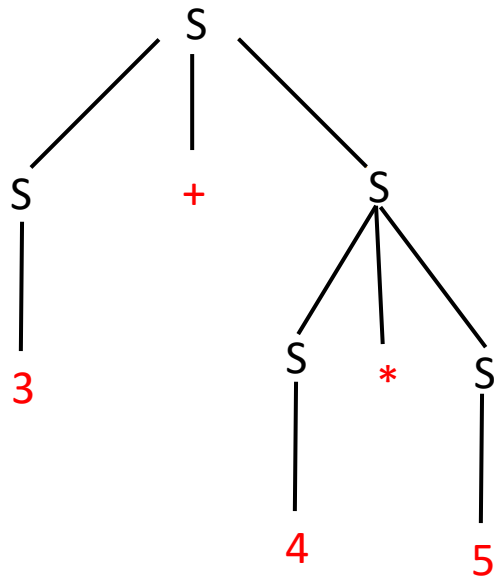
# Ambiguity

Consider the grammar:  $S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9$

How can we get rid of this ambiguity? Change the production rules

1) Add parenthesis

New Grammar:  $S \rightarrow (S + S) \mid (S * S) \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9$



Old Parse tree (before adding parenthesis)

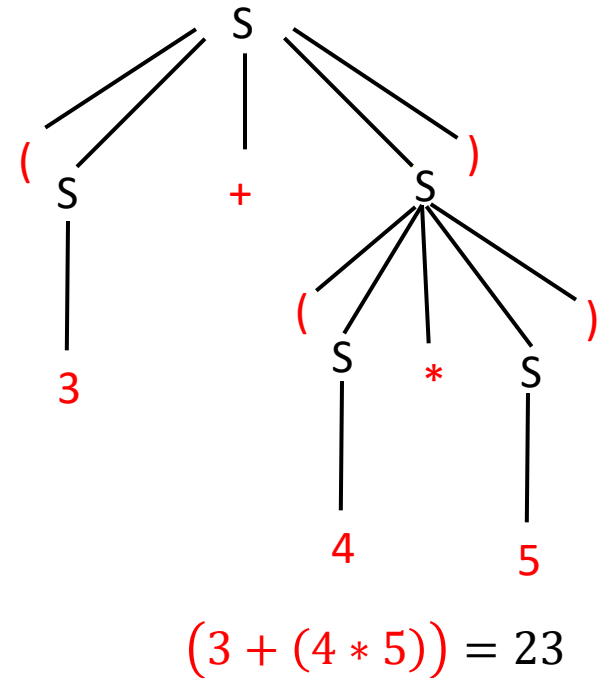
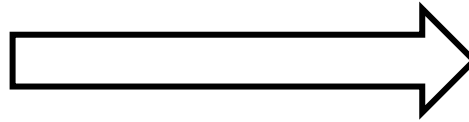
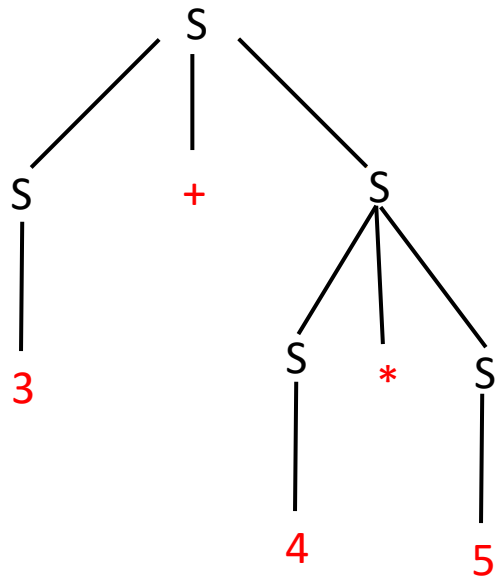
# Ambiguity

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# Ambiguity

Consider the grammar:  $S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9$

**How can we get rid of this ambiguity? Change the production rules**

- 1) Add parentheses**
- 2) Add new variables**



# Ambiguity

Consider the grammar:  $S \rightarrow S + S \mid S * S \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9$

How can we get rid of this ambiguity? Change the production rules

- 1) Add parentheses
- 2) Add new variables

New Grammar:

$$\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow E + T \mid T \\ T &\rightarrow T * F \mid F \\ F &\rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9 \mid E \end{aligned}$$

# Ambiguity

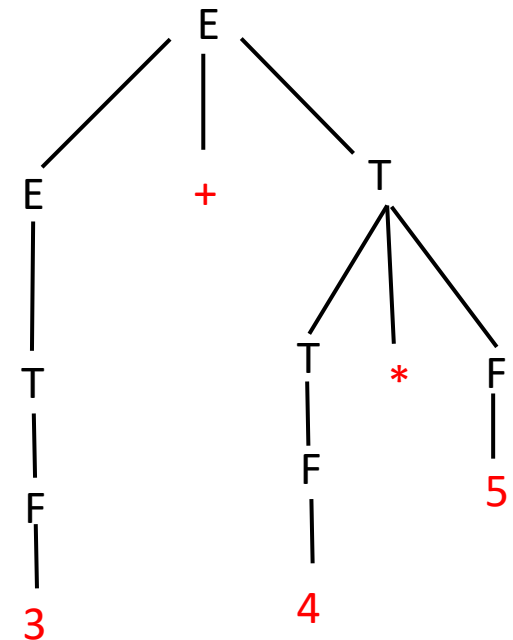
How can we get rid of this ambiguity? Change the production rules

- 1) Add parentheses
- 2) Add new variables

New Grammar:

$$\begin{aligned}E &\rightarrow E + T \mid T \\T &\rightarrow T * F \mid F \\F &\rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9 \mid E\end{aligned}$$

Parse tree to derive: **3 + (4 \* 5)**



# Ambiguity

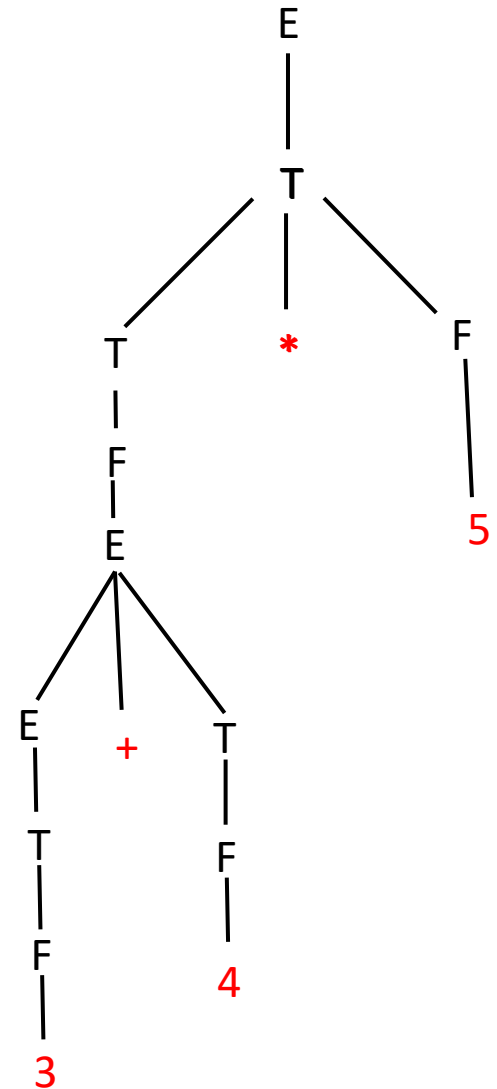
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New Grammar:

$$\begin{aligned}E &\rightarrow E + T \mid T \\T &\rightarrow T * F \mid F \\F &\rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9 \mid E\end{aligned}$$

Parse tree to derive:  $(3 + 4) * 5$



# Ambiguity

How can we get rid of this ambiguity? Change the production rules

- 1) Add parentheses
- 2) Add new variables

- In general, it is not possible to write an algorithm that takes as input a grammar  $G$  and outputs, YES if  $G$  is ambiguous and NO, otherwise. **(Undecidable)**
- So removing ambiguity is impossible in general.

Thank You!